


SUPER SPECIAL SUMMER GIANT

# VAMPIRELLA

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THE DREAD  
COBRA QUEEN  
RETURNS.  
SHE SLITHERS  
AND STRIKES  
FROM THE HEART  
OF THE  
AMAZON JUNGLE.  
HER PREY:  
VAMPIRELLA  
AND  
ADAM VAN HELSING.

PLUS  
EIGHT  
ALL-TIME  
GREAT  
HORROR  
CLASSICS.

100 EXCITING PAGES. BIGGEST AND BEST ISSUE EVER.



**WEREWOLVES, MUMMIES, DEMONS,  
GHOSTS, WIZARDS, GHOULS,  
HEROES, SPACEMEN, & MONSTERS!**

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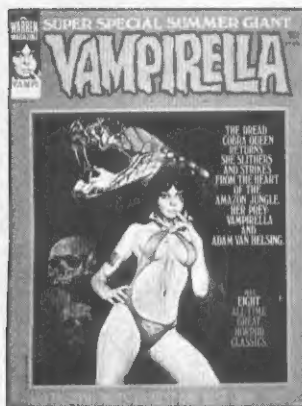


**SPECIAL  
COLLECTOR'S  
EDITION!**



by rich corben





**Editor-In-Chief  
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JAMES WARREN**

**Editor  
W.B. DuBAY**

**Production Manager  
W.R. MOHALLEY**

**Circulation Direction  
AB SIDEMAN**

**Cover  
SANJULIAN**

**Back Cover  
ENRICH**

**Artists this issue  
AURALEON  
JOSE BEA  
LUIS GARCIA  
JOSE GONZALEZ  
ESTEBAN MAROTO  
FELIX MAS  
ISIDRO MONES  
RAMON TORRENTS**

**Writers this issue  
JAMES CRAWFORD  
DON GLUT  
ARCHIE GOODWIN  
JOHN JACOBSON  
LYNN MARRON  
DONALD MCGREGOR  
KEVIN PAGAN**

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# VAMPIRELLA®

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HERE'S A JOLTIN'  
JUNGLE OPUS TO MAKE  
YOUR BLOOD BOIL AND  
COIL ... A LITTLE DERANGED  
DITTY I CALL ...

# COBRA QUEEN

JAICE PACKSTON'S FACE WAS BURIED  
BENEATH A LAYER OF SWEAT AFTER  
ANOTHER FULL DAY UNDER THE HOT SUN  
OF INDIA. BUT HE, AND HIS COMPANIONS,  
THE DISTINGUISHED SIR REGINALD OF  
LONDON, AND THE SOUTHERN PHYSICIAN,  
DR. JAMES LONGLEY, MOVED ONWARD...  
ONWARD...

BLIMEY, JACOB!  
WE'VE BEEN TREKING  
THROUGH THIS INFERNAL  
JUNGLE FOR DAYS, NOW!  
AND STILL NOTHING  
IN SIGHT!

SIR REGINALD'S  
RIGHT, I RECKON!'  
I MEAN, WE BEEN  
JUST MARCHIN' ALONG  
HERE, CHOPPIN' OUR  
WAY THROUGH ALL  
THIS HERE FOLIAGE  
AND EVERYTHING, AND  
STILL WE AIN'T COME  
ACROSS WHAT WE  
BEEN LOOKIN' FOR!  
DON'T YOU THINK  
WE OUGHTA BE  
TURNIN' BACK?

**NO!** I'M NOT  
TAKING ONE STEP  
BACK TOWARD  
CIVILIZATION UNTIL I FIND  
WHAT I SET OUT TO  
FIND! THAT **ANCIENT MAP**  
IS GOING TO LEAD US  
RIGHT TO THE LOST  
**TEMPLE OF THE  
COBRA...**

...AND THE  
LEGENDARY  
**COBRA  
QUEEN!**

BUT, JACOB!  
WE'VE BEEN  
FOLLOWING THAT MAP  
TO THE LETTER! IF  
THERE WERE ANY RUINS OR  
ANYTHING IN THIS AREA,  
WE'D HAVE FOUND THEM  
BY NOW!

THEY'RE AROUND  
HERE ... SOMEWHERE!  
**I JUST KNOW IT!** I CAN  
FEEL IT! DIDN'T THE FACT  
THAT THE NATIVES WOULDN'T  
GO WITH US TIP YOU OFF  
THAT WE WERE ON THE  
TRACK OF SOMETHING  
THEY FEARED? WELL,  
I'M GOIN' ON!





YOU TWO CAN TURN BACK IF YOU WANT! OR STAY HERE COUNTING YOUR FINGERS AND TOES!

WAIT, JACOB! WE'RE NOT GOING TO DESERT YOU! NOT AFTER ALL WE THREE HAVE GONE THROUGH TO GET THIS FAR! WAIT!!!



YEAH, COME ON, NOW! DON'T HOLD THIS AGIN' US! I AIN'T ONE TO TURN JACK RABBIT AN' HIGHTAIL IT!

THAT GOES FOR ME AS WELL!

GOOD! I HOPED I COULD--



GOOD LORD! STAY BACK, BOTH OF YOU!



IT'S THE BIGGEST CAT I EVER SAW! A REGULAR MONSTER!

NOW DON'T MOVE! I THINK I CAN GET A COUPLE OF SLUGS RIGHT INTO HIS BRAIN IF WE DON'T EXCITE HIM! QUIET, NOW...

RRRG GRRRRWWWWW



OK, YOU'RE IN MY SIGHTS! NOW TO...

BUT THEN, AS UNEXPECTEDLY AS IT HAD APPEARED...



GREAT GLORY! IT JUST STOPPED! LIKE IT SMELLED SOMETHIN' MORE THAN YOUR GUN!

YE GODS! DID YOU SEE THAT? I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO SHOOT!





I SAY! THAT BLOODY BEAST IS JUST STARING UP INTO THE TREETOP LIKE SOMETHING IS UP THERE!

AN'IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT **SOMETHING** AIN'T GONNA' STAY HIDDEN MUCH LONGER....!

**SNIFF!  
SNIFF!  
GRRRR!**

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**SNIFF!  
SNIFF!  
GRRRR!**

THERE! THERE'S OUR ANSWER!

W-WHAT IS THAT... THAT THING!

THERE! THERE'S OUR ANSWER!

W-WHAT IS THAT... THAT THING!

A black and white cartoon illustration of a prehistoric scene. A large, roaring T-Rex is on the right, with its mouth wide open. A smaller Triceratops is on the left, looking up at the T-Rex. A speech bubble from the Triceratops contains the text: "D-DON'T... ASK... ME !!!". The background shows some stylized trees and a fence-like structure.

THERE! THERE'S OUR ANSWER!

W-WHAT IS THAT... THAT THING!

D-DON'T... ASK... ME !!!

IT'S A COBRA!  
A GIANT COBRA!  
LARGER THAN ANY  
BOA OR PYTHON  
IN THE WORLD!

B-BUT...  
COBRAS DON'T  
GROW THAT  
LARGE!

NOPE! AND  
I AIN'T NEVER  
SEEN ONE FIGHT  
LIKE A CONSTRUCTOR  
BEFORE!

B-BUT...  
COBRAS DON'T  
GROW THAT  
LARGE!

NOPE! AND  
I AIN'T NEVER  
SEEN ONE FIGHT  
LIKE A CONSTRUCTOR  
BEFORE!

IT'S ALL OVER! LOOKS AS IF THAT THERE TIGER NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE!

AND NOW THAT MONSTROSITY IS GOING BACK INTO THE JUNGLE!

NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT.

IT'S ALL OVER! LOOKS AS IF THAT THERE TIGER NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE!

AND NOW THAT MONSTROSITY IS GOING BACK INTO THE JUNGLE!

NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT.

IT'S ALL OVER! LOOKS AS IF THAT THERE TIGER NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE!

AND NOW THAT MONSTROSITY IS GOING BACK INTO THE JUNGLE!

NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT.



WE'RE ON THE  
RIGHT TRACK! THE  
LEGENDS TALK OF  
A GIGANTIC  
COBRA!

A HUGE SNAKE  
THAT ISN'T REALLY  
A SNAKE AT ALL...  
BUT A... **WOMAN!**

W-WHAT? WHAT'S  
THAT YOU'RE  
TRYING TO SAY?  
YOU MEAN...

AS OLD AS THE TEMPLE  
ITSELF, WHICH SPANS  
CENTURIES OF  
UNFATHOMABLE BEAUTY!  
BUT EQUALLY EVIL,  
EXISTING FOR ONLY  
ONE PURPOSE...

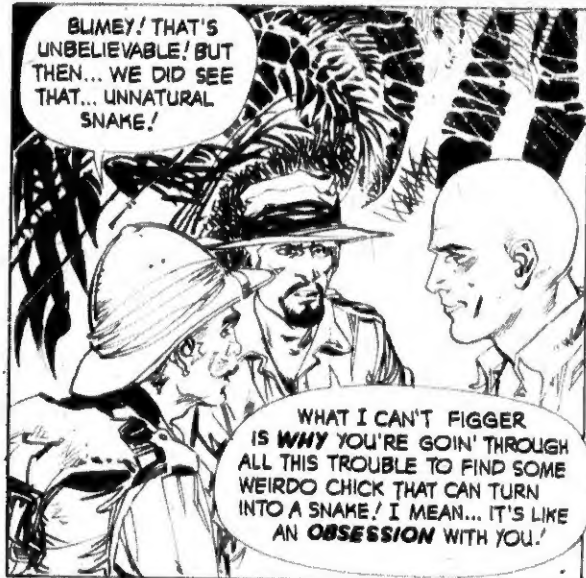
...TO TRANSFORM  
HERSELF INTO THE  
GIANT SNAKE... MUCH  
IN THE FASHION OF  
THE EUROPEAN **WEREWOLF**...  
AND TO INFLICT HER  
OWN PEOPLE WITH  
HER VENOM...

YOU HEARD ME!  
**A WOMAN!! THE COBRA  
QUEEN, RULER OF THE LOST  
TEMPLE OF THE COBRA!**

...TO POISON  
THEIR BLOOD AND  
THEIR WILL, TURNING  
THEM INTO HELPLESS  
SLAVES... INTO  
MINDLESS, WALKING  
**ZOMBIES!**









NO MORE WORDS ARE SPOKEN...  
EVEN AS THE SUN AGAIN BEATS  
DOWN OVER A QUIET BURIAL...  
AND...

PACKSTON MUST  
BE TAKIN' THIS PURTY  
HARD! HE AIN'T SAID A  
SINGLE THING ALL  
MORNIN.' WELL, SIR  
REGINALD WAS ONE OF  
THE BEST FELLARS  
AROUND!



THEN... PACKSTON AND DR.  
LONGLEY HALT, THEIR EYES  
BULGING AT THE AWESOME  
DISPLAY OF...

AMAZONS!  
LOOK AT THEM...  
MAGNIFICENT AND  
THEIR LOIN-CLOTHS...  
COBRA SKINS!

BUT THEIR  
EYES... LIKE YOU  
TOLD US ABOUT...  
ZOMBIES!

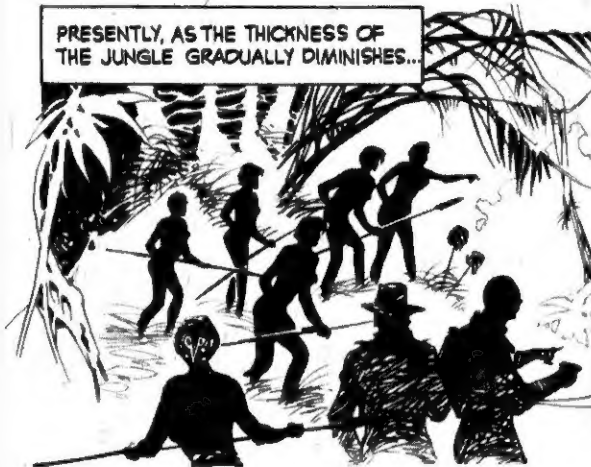


I KNOW! BUT  
DON'T FIGHT THEM!  
LET THEM TAKE US  
WHERE THEY WANT  
TO! IF THEY  
WANTED TO KILL  
US THEY WOULD  
HAVE ALREADY  
DONE IT!



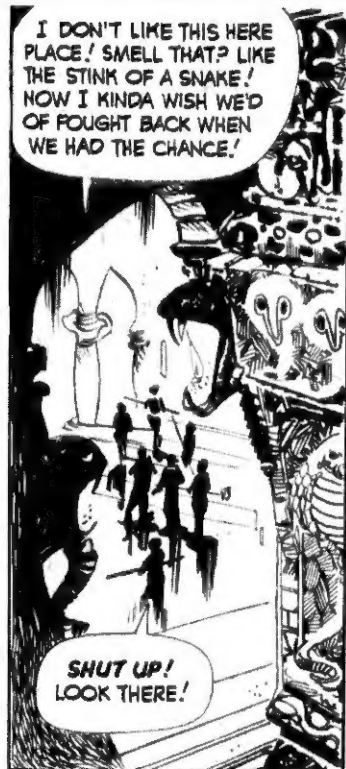
RECKON YOU'RE  
RIGHT! IFFEN WE  
TRIED TO FIGHT NOW,  
WE'D BE **SPEAR**  
TA DEATH! AND I  
DON'T HANKER FER  
THAT KINDA  
MISBEHAVIN'!

PRESENTLY, AS THE THICKNESS OF  
THE JUNGLE GRADUALLY DIMINISHES...



THERE IT IS, LONGLEY!  
WHAT I'VE HEARD **WHISPERS**  
OF... **DREAMED** OF FINDING...  
ALL MY LIFE! THE **TEMPLE**  
OF THE COBRA!





I DON'T LIKE THIS HERE PLACE! SMELL THAT? LIKE THE STINK OF A SNAKE! NOW I KINDA WISH WE'D OF FOUGHT BACK WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE!

SHUT UP!  
LOOK THERE!



BARE YOUR FANGS ALL YOU LIKE, MY BEAUTIFUL QUEEN! THAT WON'T SCARE ME... NOT AFTER THE TROUBLE I'VE GONE THROUGH TO FIND YOU... PROVE TO MYSELF THAT YOU DO EXIST!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SUCH CHATTERING, MORTAL? IF YOU THINK TO PROLONG YOUR LIFE BY IDLE TALK... WATCH! AND TREMBLE!



THE COBRA QUEEN!!!

I SEE THAT MY LITTLE ATTEMPTS TO FRIGHTEN YOU AWAY IN THE JUNGLE HAVE FAILED! NO MATTER! YOU HAVE COME TO FIND THE COBRA QUEEN... AND YOU SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED! AS SOON AS YOU FEEL MY FANGS...

BOY HOWDY, JAKE! IFFEN' YOU GOT SOME TRICK FOR HANDLIN' HER UP YOUR SLEEVE... PULL IT OUT NOW!



NOT EXACTLY A TRICK, DOCTOR...



MORE LIKE PROVING MYSELF! ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN A MISFIT... A FREAK... NOW AT LAST I'VE FOUND MY PLACE! AND WHAT BETTER PLACE...



FOR A KING COBRA THAN BESIDE HIS QUEEN!

GNYAHHHHHHHHH!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... A MALE! ONCE MORE THE CULT OF THE COBRA CAN THRIVE... AND SPREAD!

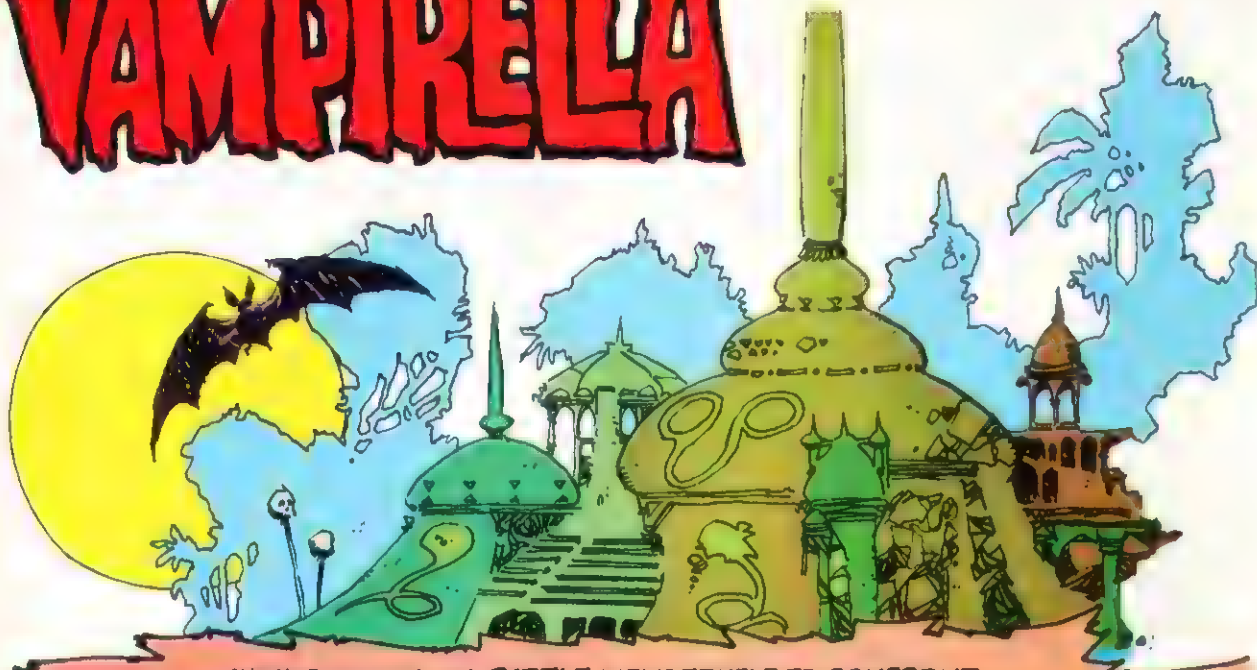
HMMN! WONDER IF PACKSTON FOUND OUT ABOUT THE QUEEN THROUGH A COMPUTER DATING SERVICE? THEY CERTAINLY SHARE THE SAME INTERESTS... IN THIS CASE, DR. LONGLEY!





IT LIES IN THE JUNGLE, SOMEWHERE NEAR THE ASSAM-BURMA BORDER, GLEAMING LIKE SOME TIME-ENCRUSTED JEWEL AGAINST THE BLOOD-RED SUNSET... THE **TEMPLE.** HER TEMPLE, AND TO THE TEMPLE NOW COMES ONE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, THE WORLD OF DRAKULON...

# VAMPIRELLA



SHE HAS COME TO DO **BATTLE** IN THIS TEMPLE, TO **CONFRONT** THE ONE WHO DWELLS HERE, TO TURN HER HAND AGAINST...

## SHE WHO WAITS!

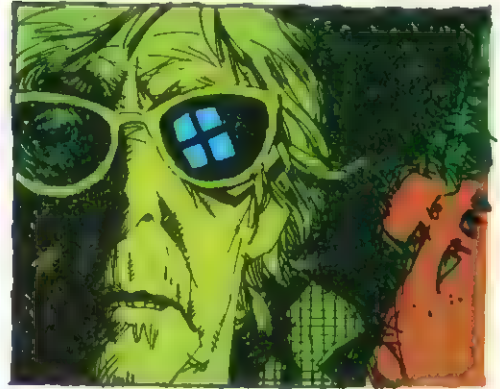


AND FOR **VAMPIRELLA**, SUCH A BATTLE, SUCH A CONFRONTATION, MAY MEAN THE **END** OF HER VERY EXISTENCE!

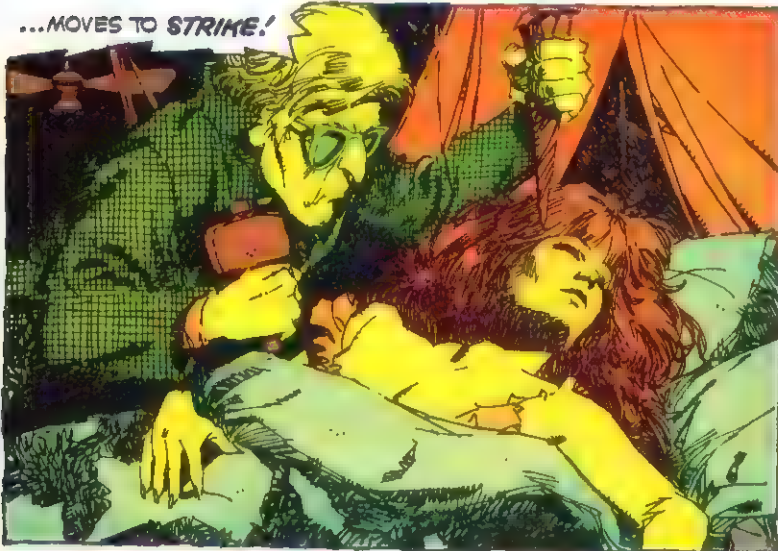
BUT HOW DID IT *BEGIN?* LOOK *HERE*, TO THE CITY OF IMPHAL,  
UNDER THE DEEP MANTLE OF A NIGHT NOW PASSED...



...WHERE *THIS* MAN, FOR WHOM THE  
DARKNESS IS BUT A *CONTINUATION*  
OF HIS WAKING DAYS...



...MOVES TO *STRIKE!*



CONRAD VAN  
HELSENG...!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!

WHY *SHOULDN'T*  
I TURN ON YOU,  
VAMPIRESS? HAVEN'T  
YOU TURNED ON MY  
SON?

A-ADAM...?  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT Y--



VAMPI...! VAN  
HELSENG...! I  
HEARD THE *NOISE*...  
ALMOST DROPPED MY  
*NIGHTCAP!*



WITH BRANDY SCARCE  
IN THESE REGIONS... ONE  
CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.

A GREAT PITY  
YOUR ASSISTANT  
DOESN'T SHARE  
YOUR PARTICULAR  
THIRST, MR.  
PENDRAGON.

AND IN HIS HOTEL SUITE... CONRAD DOES!

THERE! LOOK  
AT THE WOUND I  
CAN ONLY FEEL!  
LOOK AT THE  
TRANCE HE'S IN...

B-BUT I  
DIDN'T DO THIS...  
I COULDN'T!

THEN TELL ME  
IT'S NOT A  
VAMPIRE'S  
WORK!

CONRAD, I WON'T  
BE ACCUSED LIKE  
THIS! IF SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENED TO ADAM  
SHOW ME!

NO?! HAVEN'T  
CERTAIN INGREDIENTS  
IN THE SERUM THAT  
CONTROLS YOUR  
BLOODLUST RECENTLY  
BECOME SCARCE...?

HASN'T  
ADAM  
BEEN

SEARCHING  
THE JUNGLE OF  
THIS AREA TO LOCATE  
A NEW SUPPLY...?

ISN'T THAT WHY  
YOU AND PENDRAGON  
DROPPED YOUR  
MAGIC TOUR TO  
RUSH HERE TO  
MEET HIM?

ONLY TO  
FIND HE'D  
FAILED...!  
AND UNABLE  
TO RESTRAIN  
YOUR  
MONSTROUS  
NATURE... YOU  
ATTACKED  
HIM!

NO! ADAM WIRED HE WAS  
SUCCESSFUL... THAT'S WHY  
WE CAME! THERE'S SOME  
OTHER REASON FOR ALL  
THIS!

THE DOOR WAS LOCKED  
FROM INSIDE WHEN I  
ARRIVED AND FOUND HIM,  
VAMPIRELLA... BUT THE  
WINDOW WAS OPEN!

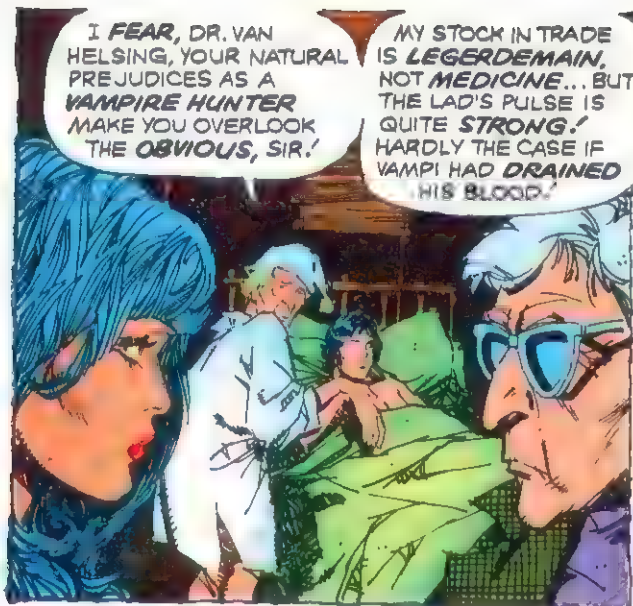
ONLY A BAT COULD  
ENTER THAT WAY!

AND SHOULD I  
IGNORE MY OWN  
PSYCHIC VISION THAT  
DREW ME HERE FROM  
ACROSS THE GLOBE?

THE VISION  
THAT SHOWED  
ADAM...

... MENACED  
BY A WOMAN NOT  
OF HUMAN KEN?!





I FEAR, DR. VAN HELSING, YOUR NATURAL PREJUDICES AS A **VAMPIRE HUNTER** MAKE YOU OVERLOOK THE **OBVIOUS, SIR!**

MY STOCK IN TRADE IS **LEGERDEMAIN**, NOT **MEDICINE...** BUT THE LAD'S PULSE IS QUITE **STRONG!** HARDLY THE CASE IF VAMPI HAD **DRAINED HIS BLOOD!**



B-BUT... THE **WOUNDS...** THE **TRANCE...** THE **LOCKED ROOM ENTERED...**! WHAT ELSE BUT A **VAMPIRE** COULD DO IT?

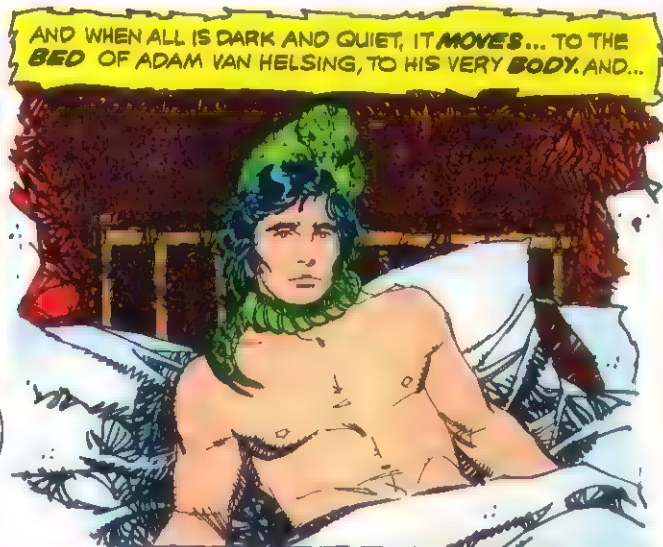
IT ENTERS IN **SILENCE**. EARLIER CONRAD'S SUDDEN ARRIVAL HAD FRIGHTENED IT AWAY. BUT THE MISTRESS HAS ORDERED IT TO **RETURN**, TO **FINISH** WHAT WAS BEGUN...

SO IT SLITHERS FOR THE ROOM'S DEEPEST SHADOW AND **HIDES**, UNTIL...



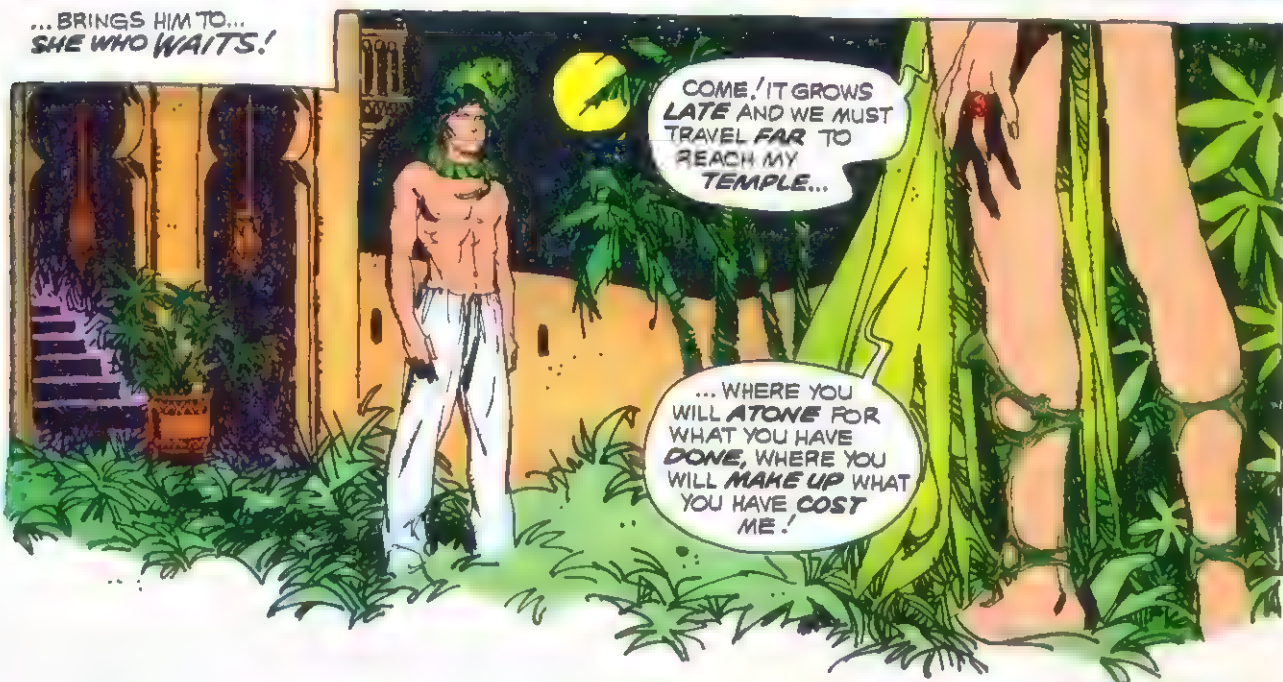
PENDY'S **RIGHT**, DR. VAN HELSING... AT LEAST LET'S GET A **PHYSICIAN'S** OPINION.

AGREED. THOUGH MY PSYCHIC POWERS **SCREAM** THAT THIS IS **BEYOND** NATURAL EXPLANATION!



AND WHEN ALL IS DARK AND QUIET, IT **MOVES...** TO THE **BED** OF ADAM VAN HELSING, TO HIS VERY **BODY**, AND...

...BRINGS HIM TO... **SHE WHO WAITS!**



COME! IT GROWS **LATE** AND WE MUST TRAVEL **FAR** TO REACH MY **TEMPLE...**

... WHERE YOU WILL **ATONE** FOR WHAT YOU HAVE **DONE**, WHERE YOU WILL **MAKE UP** WHAT YOU HAVE **COST ME!**





WE'RE SORRY  
TO AWAKEN  
YOU, BUT--

A HOTEL DOCTOR'S LOT,  
MEMSAHIB! FROM YOUR  
DESCRIPTION, YOUR  
FRIEND'S WOUND SOUNDS  
LIKE **COBRA BITE**...

...IN WHICH CASE, HE  
SHOULD NOT BE IN A  
TRANCE, BUT DEAD!  
STILL, I--

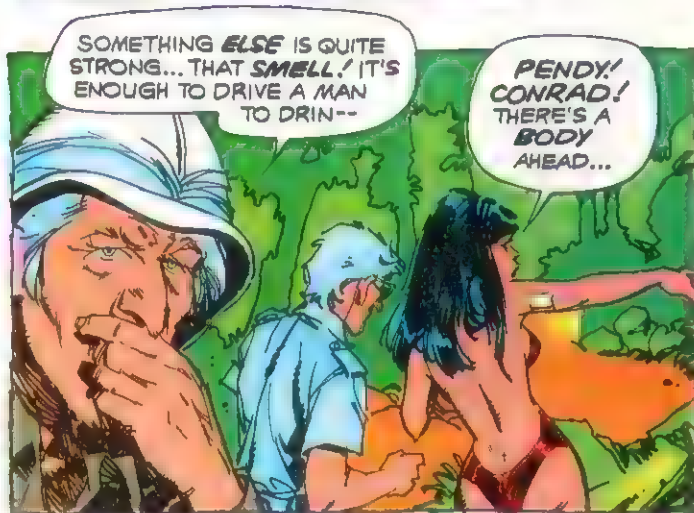
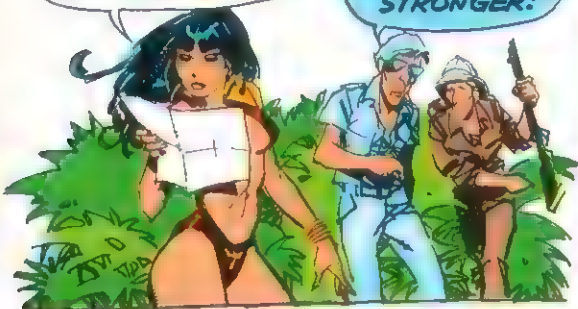


ADAM...! ADAM! I CAN  
FEEL IT... WE'RE TOO LATE!  
HE'S BEEN **TAKEN**...!

THUS, THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW FIND VAMPI,  
PENDRAGON, AND CONRAD VAN HELSING  
MOVING THROUGH JUNGLE DENSE AND  
VERDANT...

ACCORDING  
TO THIS MAP FROM  
ADAM'S ROOM... WE'RE  
INTO THE SAME AREA  
HE EXPLORED.

THIS IS THE WAY  
THEY BROUGHT  
HIM... THE PSYCHIC  
EMANATIONS  
COULDN'T BE  
**STRONGER!**



SOMETHING **ELSE** IS QUITE  
STRONG... THAT **SMELL!** IT'S  
ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN  
TO DRIN--

PENDY!  
CONRAD!  
THERE'S A  
**BODY**  
AHEAD...



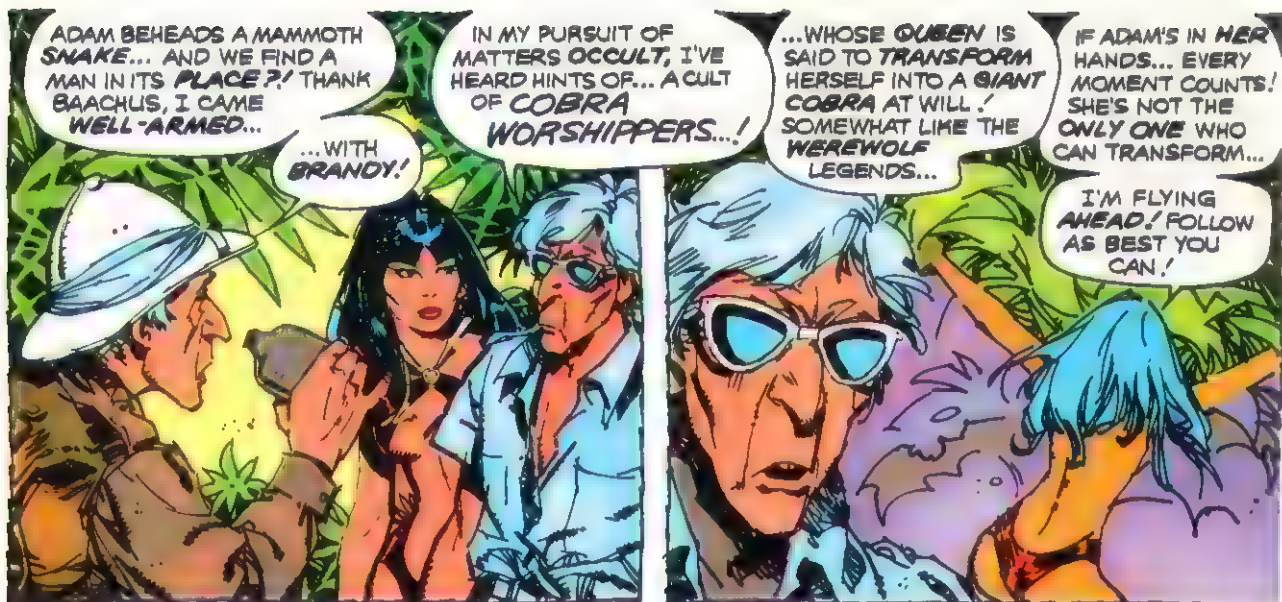
... IT'S BEEN  
**DECAPITATED!**

I SENSE SOMETHING  
**MORE**, VAMPIRELLA...  
SOMETHING INVOLVING  
ADAM... PERHAPS DURING  
HIS **FIRST**  
EXPLORATION...

...I SEE HIM IN **BATTLE**... WITH A CREATURE  
HUGE, FANTASTIC... A CREATURE WHOSE **FANGS**  
ARE ABOUT TO SINK **HOME**... UNTIL ADAM  
SWINGS HIS **MACHETE**...







ADAM BEHEADS A MAMMOTH SNAKE... AND WE FIND A MAN IN ITS PLACE?/ THANK BAACHUS, I CAME WELL-ARMED...

...WITH BRANDY!

IN MY PURSUIT OF MATTERS OCCULT, I'VE HEARD HINTS OF... A CULT OF COBRA WORSHIPPERS...!

...WHOSE QUEEN IS SAID TO TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO A GIANT COBRA AT WILL! SOMEWHAT LIKE THE WEREWOLF LEGENDS...

IF ADAM'S IN HER HANDS... EVERY MOMENT COUNTS! SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRANSFORM...

I'M FLYING AHEAD! FOLLOW AS BEST YOU CAN!

AND VAMPI'S FEARS AS SHE TAKES BAT-WINGED FLIGHT... ARE WELL-BASED!



YOU KILLED MY MATE, HANDSOME ONE... THE ONLY MAN I EVER FOUND WHO WAS LIKE ME... \*

...KING COBRA TO THE COBRA QUEEN!

AT FIRST I MEANT ONLY TO FOLLOW YOU BACK TO THE CITY AND SLAY YOU... BUT YOU ARE HANDSOME, AND I DO HAVE NEEDS BEYOND VENGEANCE.



SO, INSTEAD, YOU WILL FEEL THE FANGS OF THE TEMPLE'S SACRED COBRAS...!

THEY WHO FEAST ON HUMAN BLOOD... AND DISCHARGE THE VENOM OF TRANSFORMATION!

WHEN THEY ARE DONE, YOU SHALL BE MAN NO MORE, YOU SHALL REPLACE HIM WHO I LOVED AS...

...KING COBRA!



SUCH WAS THE **BEGINNING**, AND WHAT **FOLLOWED**. NOW, WITH THE APPEARANCE OF VAMPIRELLA ON THE TEMPLE STEPS BEFORE THE COBRA QUEEN'S **AMAZON SLAVES**...



... IT IS TIME FOR THE **END!**

THE COMBAT IS LONG AND DEADLY. THRUSTING **SPEARS** VERSUS OTHER-WORDLY **FIGHTING SKILLS**. THE ZOMBIE-LIKE WARRIORESSES GIVE **GROUND**... UNTIL ONE CAN SLIP **BEHIND** THE GIRL FROM **DRAKULON**!



**KRAK!**



YOUR ADVICE CONCERNING **DISTANCE** AND **ELEVATION** WAS MOST HELPFUL **PENDRAGON**...

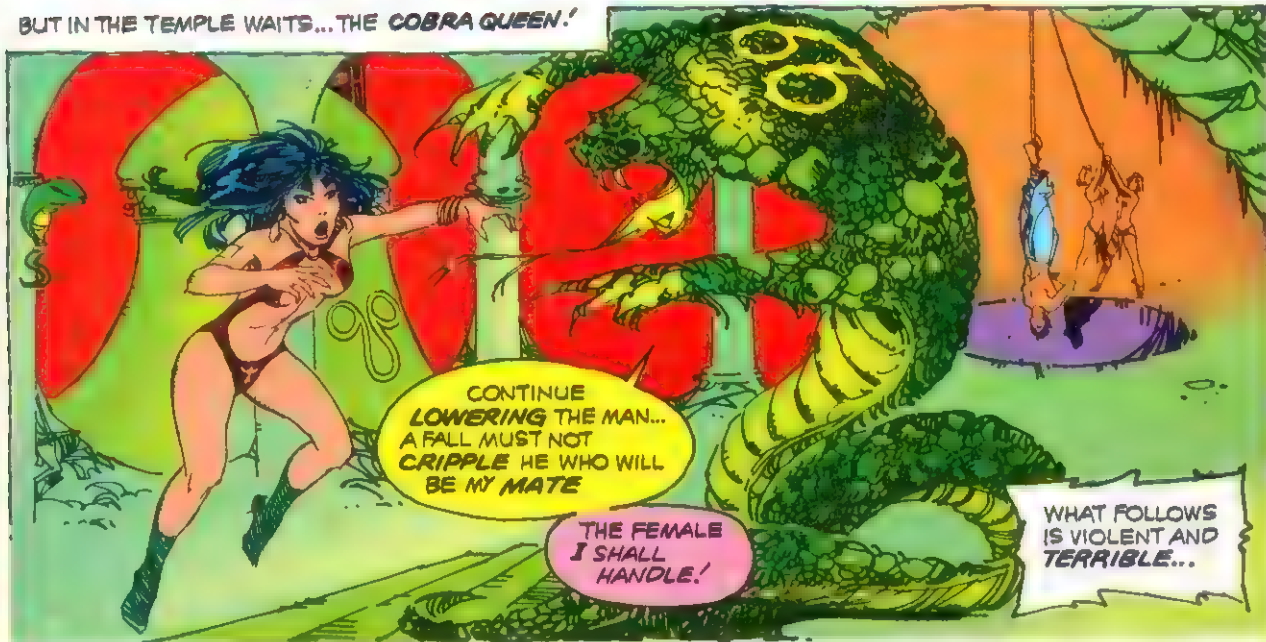
HAD WE BEEN **CLOSER**, OF COURSE, I COULD HAVE DONE IT **ENTIRELY BY SOUND**.

O-OF... COURSE...



ON INTO THE **TEMPLE**, VAMPIRELLA... WE'RE RIGHT **BEHIND!**

BUT IN THE TEMPLE WAITS... THE **COBRA QUEEN!**



CONTINUE **LOWERING** THE MAN... A FALL MUST NOT **CRIPPLE** HE WHO WILL BE MY **MATE**

THE **FEMALE** I SHALL **HANDLE!**

WHAT **FOLLOWS** IS **VIOLENT** AND **TERRIBLE**...



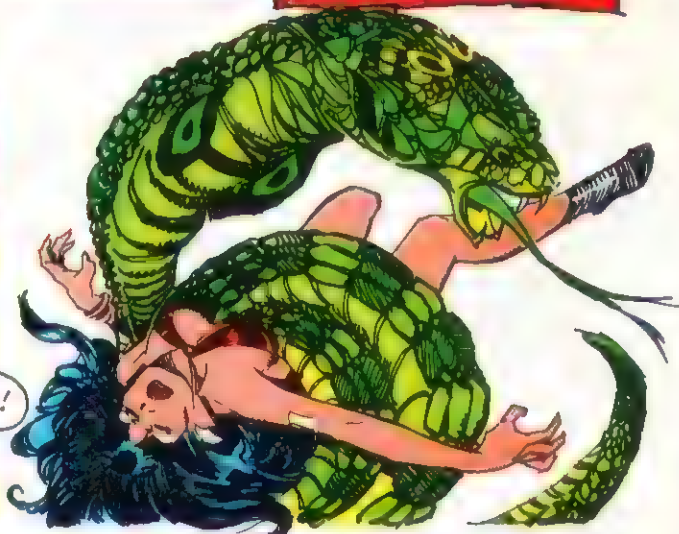
IT BUYS THE NEEDED *TIME* FOR PENDRAGON AND CONRAD TO REACH THE ROPE...



V-VAN HELSING...!  
JOIN ME  
QUICKLY...!

BUT VAMPIRELLA IS LEFT IN THE COILS OF A  
SUPERIOR FEE!

THEN, AS THE GLEAMING  
FANGS DIP TO STRIKE...



PLIP  
PLIP  
PLIP  
PLIP

SKKKRRRTCH

FOOOOOOOMP

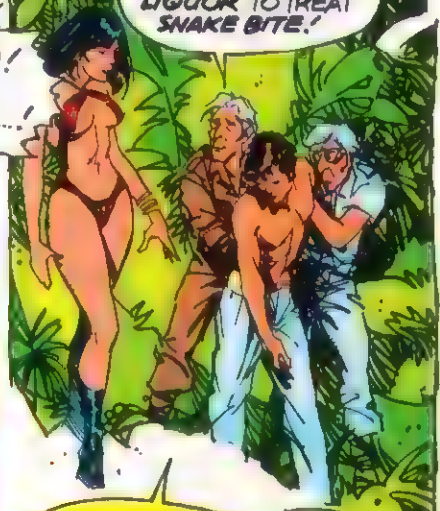
VAMPIRELLA!  
TAKE  
BAT-FORM...!



AND AS A BAT FLIES  
FREE... A QUEEN  
DIES IN FLAME.

PENDY, I DON'T THINK UNTIL  
TODAY I REALIZED HOW MUCH  
YOU CARED FOR ME...  
SACRIFICING YOUR ENTIRE  
SUPPLY OF BRANDY TO  
START THAT FIRE!

I MERELY  
FOLLOWED AN OLD  
HOME REMEDY,  
MY DEAR... USING  
LIQUOR TO TREAT  
SNAKE BITE.



OF COURSE,  
IT'S NOT OFTEN  
APPLIED BEFORE  
THE FACT!

THE IMPORTANT  
THING IS YOUNG ADAM  
IS SAFE AND SOUND...!  
SO WHAT IF I CAN  
NEVER FACE CREPES  
SUZETTE AGAIN!



PITY THE POOR PROTAGONIST OF THIS STORY DAVID WINTERS, CAUGHT IN THE FILMY WEBBING OF LIFE... UNKNOWING OF THE MANY LIVES OF WOMEN...



DAVID WINTERS HAS PLAYED THIS SCENE BEFORE. ONLY THE BIT PLAYERS CHANGE THE CHOREOGRAPHY, THE BIT PLAYER THIS TIME IS HARRIET STONE.



PLAY IT COLD. PLAY IT HARD, RE-ENACT THAT FIRM, STIFF WALK. ONLY THE FAINT CHILL OF THE NIGHT AUTUMN AIR SUGGESTS THIS ISN'T THE SAME EPISODE STAGED THREE MONTHS BEFORE TO A WARM JULY EVENING.



THE TORN SOBBINGS, THE MASCARA BLEED TEARS HAVE BEEN MIRRORRED ON OTHER YOUNG FACES. IT IS HARDLY NOTICEABLE THAT OTHER LUNGS RIP OUT THESE SOBS, THAT NEW EYES SPILL THESE TEARS.



JUST FAINT TREMORS ABOUT THE FINGERS BETRAY ANY EMOTION TO THE ABRUPT TERMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP. A TYPICAL REACTION.

IT DOESN'T GET ANY MORE DIFFICULT, JUST THE FAMILIAR NAGGING DREAD OF THE PARTING SCENE. NO SWEET SORROW HERE, BABY!



# "SONG OF A SAD-EYED SORCERESS"

THE LAST THOUGHT FADES TO NEW STIMULI. WINTERS SEES ONLY THE SWEEP OF HER BACK, THE GRACEFUL FALL OF HER HAIR, AND YET SOMETHING CATCHES IN HIS THROAT AND A STRANGE SCENT CATCHES AT HIS NOSTRILS.



WHO..... WHO ARE YOU?

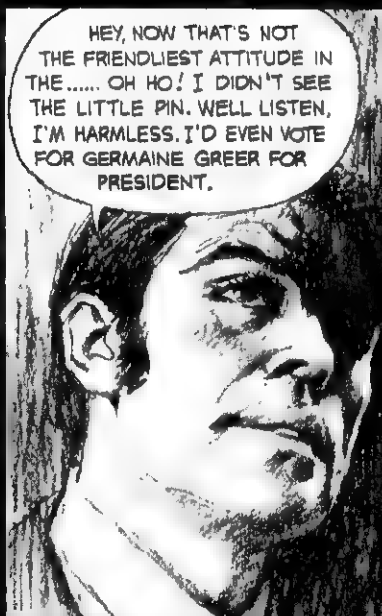
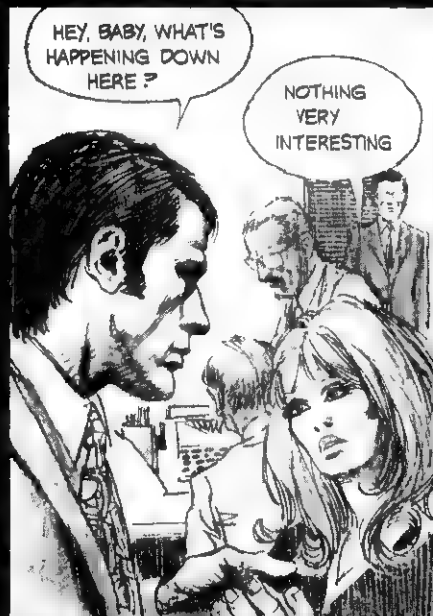
YOU WISH TO KNOW WHO I AM, DAVID WINTERS?

I AM **NAHEMAH!** AND BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS THROUGH YOU WILL KNOW ME LIKE YOU HAVE KNOWN NO OTHER WOMAN!

THAT I CAN PROMISE YOU, DAVID WINTERS!



HARRIET STONE HAD ONLY BEEN WORKING FOR KELLY AND LISSON, INC. FOR LITTLE OVER A WEEK WHEN DAVID WINTERS HAD FIRST WALKED INTO HER LIFE. DELIVERING ONE OF THOSE SMUG, ARTIFICIAL SMILES, SHE ASSUMED, THAT HE USUALLY DELIVERED IN EXECUTIVE SUITES. AND SHE HAD BEEN ALSO AWARE THAT HE WAS NOT ONLY ON THE MAKE IN A BUSINESS SENSE, HIS ENTIRE LIFE STYLE WAS ONE CONTINUOUS "MAKE-IT" DRIVE.



THAT HAD BEEN HER FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH DAVID WINTERS. IN FACT, IT HAD BEEN HER FIRST ACTUAL ENCOUNTER WITH ANYBODY IN NEW YORK CITY SINCE HER ARRIVAL. SHE HAD LOOKED INTO THE DUSTY MIRROR EACH MORNING, ASSURING HERSELF THAT SHE HAD NO STARS IN HER EYES, THAT SHE WAS TOUGH AND SELF-RELIANT; BUT AS THE NIGHT CITY SOUNDS DRIFTED UP INTO HER TENEMENT ROOM THE RETURN LOOK WAS NOT AS FIRM, AND - DESPITE THE NEAR RELIGIOUS LECTURES SHE HAD PREACHED SILENTLY TO HERSELF - DAVID WINTERS BECAME THE FIRST RECOGNIZABLE FACE.



THE STING OF THE AUTUMN WIND SHARPENS ON HIS CHEEKS AS HE STEPS FORWARD. A DIM VOICE PLEADS WITH HIM NOT TO TAKE THE STEP, BUT HIS MOVEMENTS ARE NOT OF HIS OWN VOLITION.



I....I HAVE  
SEEN YOU  
BEFORE.

YOU HAVE  
SEEN MY FACE  
MIRRORED IN OTHER  
FACES. I AM ALL THOSE  
FACES COMBINED, WITH  
THE SPECIFICS OF  
EACH.



I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND. YOU  
SAY YOUR NAME  
IS NAHEMAH.

AH, BUT HAVE  
YOU NEVER HEARD  
MY NAME BEFORE,  
DAVID ?



WAIT A  
MINUTE!!! I  
JUST DON'T  
GRAB THIS!!  
HOW DO YOU  
KNOW MY  
NAME ?

BUT I KNOW ALL ABOUT  
YOU, DAVID, FOR I HAVE BEEN  
WITH YOU AT YOUR WEAKEST  
MOMENTS.



YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS. THEY BURN YOUR MIND I SENSE THEM AND YOU WONDER HOW I SENSE THEM. YOU DESIRE TO TOUCH MY FLESH AND HAVE MY FLESH BURN YOU AS YOUR QUESTIONS DO. SO FOLLOW ME, DAVID WINTERS, FOLLOW ME, FOR THIS IS NO MORE THAN AN INNOCENT PARK WHERE LOVERS HAVE SPENT SPRING MOMENTS IN LOVELY POLITICS. POLITICS WHICH YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE A MASTER DEMAGOGUE OF... TILL NOW!!!



THE SAME DIM VOICE THROWS OUT THE WARNING AGAIN, BUT DAVID WINTERS KNOWS IT IS A LOST CAUSE THAT HE WILL FOLLOW THE FLOWING APPARITION, THAT THE DECISION HAS BEEN DETERMINED IN A PART OF HIM THAT HE HAS NEVER VISITED BEFORE.

THE WEEKS HAD PASSED -- LONE, SOLITARY WEEKS SPLINTERED WITH BRIEF MOMENTS OF HUMAN CONTACT DURING OFFICE HOURS; AND HARRIET STONE HAD REALIZED THAT SHE HAD NEVER BEEN IN THE MIDST OF SO MANY PEOPLE, NOR HAD SHE EVER BEEN SO ALONE.

JUST DON'T GET ANY WEIRD IDEAS, DAVID.



BEYOND THAT, THESE CO-WORKERS OF HERS GOT ALL THE BREAKS AND BENEFITS WHICH ADDED TO HER LAMENT.

SHE HAD KNOWN DAVID WINTERS' GAME; SHE HAD KNOWN HE WAS TRYING TO SCORE ALL THROUGH THOSE UNCTUOUS MONOLOGUES THAT HE DELIVERED. YET FINALLY TO COMPENSATE FOR THE HOSTILITY AND ALONENESS, SHE YIELDED. ONE MEETING LEADING TO ANOTHER, BOTH OF THEM PLAYING THE USUAL MALE-FEMALE POLITICS....

WHO ME? WOULD I DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT?



....UNTIL THAT NIGHT SHE HAD INVITED HIM TO HER APARTMENT.

YES. I THINK YOU WOULD. STAY HERE WHILE I FIX US A DRINK IN THE KITCHEN. HAVE A LOOK AROUND.



QUITE A PAD YOU'VE GOT HERE. AND LISTEN, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE COME-ON THE PAST FEW WEEKS. GUESS IT'S THE PRESSURE, YOU KNOW?

CHANGE OF TACT, DAVID?



LISTEN, HARRIET, YOU'VE GOT THE MOST SUSPICIOUS MIND THAT...



WHAT IN THE HELL IS THAT?

OH, I SEE YOU'VE DISCOVERED MY ATHAME.

YOU'RE WHAT?

ATHAME! DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE OCCULT ARTS? IT'S A CONSECRATION KNIFE. WITCHES WOULD USE THOSE TO INVOKE DEMONS BY DRAWING A MAGIC CIRCLE WITH IT. IT'S ONE OF MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS.



HARRIET STONE HAD LISTENED TO WINTERS' REPLY, STILL AWARE AS TO HIS NATURE, SHE HAD REMAINED STOIC, UNATTAINABLE THROUGH-OUT HIS SOPHISTICATED RAP, PLEASED THAT ANOTHER PERSON SHARED THE ROOM FOR THE MOMENT; AND SHE HAD ALSO BEEN AWARE THAT HER PASSION FOR THE OCCULT WAS A FACET OF HER WINTERS HAD NEVER SUSPECTED.

....AND THROUGHOUT THAT EVENING HE COULD NEVER REALLY FORGET THE BLADE OF ATHAME RESTING UNDER THE FLOOR-LAMP.



TWO SECTIONS OF WINTER'S MIND BATTLE FOR DOMINANCE. ONE SECTION IS FILLED WITH THE FLEEING SPECTRE BEFORE HIM, BUT THE OTHER SECTION IS GRIPPING AT SOME THIN EDGE OF NORMALITY.

WHO IS THIS CREATURE WHO BECKONS AND SWAYS BEFORE HIM, ENTICING HIM ONWARD WITH EVERY FLUID MOVEMENT, EACH SUPPLE CURVE DEMANDING OBEDIENCE? IS HE FALLING PREY TO SOME PSYCHOTIC FEAR OF WOMEN THAT HE HAS HELD IN CHECK DURING HIS ENTIRE LIFE?

BUT THAT IS FOOLISHNESS. YET, IF IT IS FOOLISHNESS, THEN WHY CAN'T HE STOP HIS FEET FROM MOVING OUT ONTO THAT BRIDGE? WHY IS THE DESIRE TO POSSESS BURNING SO FERVENTLY IN HIS VEINS? AND NAHEMAH, SHE IS LIKE SOME SYMBOLIC LIFE-FORM WHOSE CREATION AND PURPOSE HAS BEEN LOST IN THE PASSAGE OF TIME. WHY IS THAT?



FOLLOW ME, DAVID WINTERS, FOR OUR MEETING IS PREORDAINED.

I SENSE THE FEAR THAT CUTS YOUR HEART! IT MINGLES WITH YOUR DESIRE FOR ME! BUT FIRST YOU MUST COME TO ME.



CROSS THE BRIDGE, MY SWEET, AND THEN YOU CAN HAVE ME. JUST A FEW SHORT STEPS. IGNORE THE DISTANT SOUND OF THE RUSHING WATER FAR BELOW.

HAS THIS SCENE PLAYED BEFORE DAVID? DO YOU PERCEIVE ITS ORIGINS? EVEN THROUGH YOUR FEAR, THE THOUGHT TANTALYZES YOU! BUT THE PARTS HAVE BEEN SWITCHED. YOU DO REALIZE THAT, DON'T YOU? YOU PLAY THE ROLE YOU ONCE METED OUT!



HARRIET STONE HAD PLAYED THE GAME, FOLLOWING THE PRESCRIBED FORMULA, INCLUDING ALL THE TENTATIVE MOVES AND DOUBLE ENTENDRES.

SHE HAD PLAYED THE GAME AND PLAYED IT WELL, TRYING TO REMAIN AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THAT WAS ALL IT WAS. A GAME.

IT HAD BEEN THE COMMON NEED, THE ONE TRAIT THAT LINKED THEM, WHICH HAD FINALLY COMPLETED THE CHARADE.



SHE HAD HEARD HERSELF UTTERING WORDS THAT WERE SCHOOL-GIRL TEXT, WORDS SHE HAD KNOWN BETTY FRIEDAN WOULD FROWN UPON; AND SHE FELT ALTERNATE SENSATIONS. A MINGLING OF NEED WITH A FEELING OF FAILURE.

HONEY, YOU'RE REALLY FINE, YOU KNOW THAT?

DAVID, I'M..... I'M NOT SO SURE!

THE SOFT, MELLOW SOUNDS OF FRANK SINATRA CROONING LOST LOVE IN THE BACKGROUND HAD ADDED THE FINAL TOUCH TO THE SCENE. SHE HAD WONDERED HOW MANY SUCH SCENES HAD BEEN PRESIDED OVER, VOCALLY, BY THE KING.

LISTEN, WE BOTH NEED IT, RIGHT? YOU KNOW YOU REALLY WANT THIS.

AND SHE HAD STILL KNOWN THAT IT WAS ONLY A GAME, BUT THERE WAS ONE SLIGHT CHANGE. SHE HAD BEEN WISHING THAT PART OF IT COULD BE... REAL.

I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE HURT, THAT'S ALL.

NO ONE'S GOIN' TO HURT YOU, HONEY. THAT'S NO JIVE.

RIGHT NOW, I WANT YOU, BABY!

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN DAVID. I JUST WANT SOME PART OF ME LEFT, SOME PART OF ME THAT'S MINE ALONE.



THE WIND LIFTS, CARRYING NAHEMAH'S CARRESSING VOICE TO HIM, THE WORDS A CHANTING MOCKERY AS THE GAPING CHASM BELOW GRIPS AT THE CENTER OF WINTER'S STOMACH

HOW MANY SONGS HAVE YOU LISTENED TO, YET NEVER HEARD THE LYRICS?

YET, THERE IS A POWER GREATER THAN THAT OF THE YAWNING ABYSS; AND IT IS MIRRORED IN NAHEMAH'S EYES, A KINDLING SPARK THAT DISRUPTS THE NIGHT AIR AND SEARS HIS FLESH, SOME BASIC PART OF HIM FIGHTS TO RETAIN HIS IDENTITY.

WHAT WHISPERED HOPES ENFLAMED ON YOUR COVENANT WASHED TO DYING EMBERS?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?..... SERMONETTES?

THAT'S ONE DAMNED THING I DON'T NEED, SISTER! YOU BROADS ARE ALL ALIKE!

BUT YOU..... YOU'RE THE FREAKIEST WITCH I'VE EVER SEEN!



WINTER'S HEART LURCHES CRAZILY IN HIS CHEST, SLAMMING HIS BLOOD FIERCELY TO HIS HEAD. HIS HANDS GRASP AT AIR, AND HIS BODY SWAYS WITH THE BREEZE, WAVERING, THE DARKNESS PATIENTLY AWAITING HIS ARRIVAL WHILE NAHEMAH STANDS ALOOF AND UNATTAINABLE.

NOT WITCH, DAVID!

HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YET WHAT I AM? DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT I REPRESENT?

OR ARE YOU NOT AWARE SUCH BEINGS AS I EXIST ON THE PERIPHERAL EDGES OF YOUR WORLD.... OR PERHAPS SUCH KNOWLEDGE WOULD SHATTER YOUR FRAGILE PHILOSOPHY, DEAR SWEET DAVID!



HARRIET HAD SEEN THE MECHANISMS AT WORK. SHE HAD KNOWN WHAT FUNCTIONS EACH MOVEMENT WINTERS SUPPLIED MEANT. YET, SHE HAD IGNORED THEM, DESIRING INSTEAD A TIME OF RELIANCE TO SELF-RELIANCE. SHE DESERVED THAT MUCH, SHE HAD SOOTHED HERSELF, AWARE THERE WOULD COME A TIME WHEN SHE WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT CONVENIENCE.



WHY DO YOU HAVE TO USE PEOPLE?

GET IT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL, BABY.... I COULDN'T HAVE USED YOU IF YOU HADN'T WANTED TO BE USED!

YOU COULDN'T WAIT TO BE USED! YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS, YOU LIVE IN YOUR PRECIOUS FAIRY TALE WORLD WITH YOUR GUIDING STARS AND THAT SILLY SORCERESS' BLADE!

AND YOU KEEP NURTURING THAT SALVING DELUSION THAT EVERY-ONE'S GOT IT BETTER THAN YOU SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FRET ABOUT BEING BELOW STANDARD!!!

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH USING PEOPLE!

THEY'RE A NICE COMMODITY! BUT I PAID FOR IT AND I KNEW THE MERCHANDISE I WAS BUYIN'! SO DON'T GO GET RIGHTEOUS!

I HATE YOU!

WE'LL SEE YA AROUND, BABY, HUH?

JUST A FAIRY TALE WORLD, HUH, MR. KNOW-IT-ALL?

WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH A FAIRY TALE WORLD IT IS.

I'M GIVING YOU JUST ONE MORE CHANCE, YOU CONCEITED BEAST, AND THEN I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH FANTASY IT IS.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ATHAME CAN DO, WHAT POWER IT HOLDS.

THE BLADE THAT INSCRIBES THE MAGIC CIRCLE THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO CONTACT THE DAUGHTERS OF HECATE....

... WHICH WILL CALL FORTH THE MOST DAMNING OF SUCCUBAE INTO MY BODY, WAITING TO BE UNLEASHED, WAITING FOR.... VENGEANCE!



WINTERS HOVERS AT THE BRINK WITH DEATH AND LIFE WAITING ON THE SIDES. HE HAS NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO DEATH BEFORE AND YET THERE IS STILL A CURIOUS SENSATION THAT IT IS HAPPENING TO SOMEONE ELSE.



A TENTATIVE STEP, THE FEAR STILL CLUTCHING AT HIS INSIDES, AND HIS BALANCE IS RESTORED.



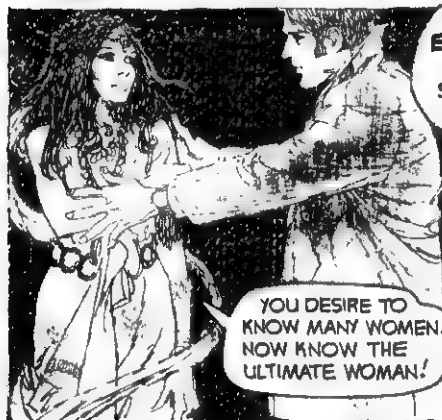
THE TERROR SUBSIDES IN HIS BREAST AS HE CONTINUES ACROSS THE TERMITE AND WEATHER-EATEN BRIDGE.



NAHEMAH'S UNEARTHLY BEAUTY RESUMES ITS HOLD. HE HAS NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE HER BEFORE, YET AT THE SAME TIME HE HAS KNOWN SEPARATE PARTS OF HER.

HER BREATH IS WARM AND EXOTIC. HER SCENT FILLS HIS NOSTRILS. HER TOUCH IS ELECTRIC, AND THESE ARE EMOTIONS HE CANNOT COMPREHEND.

HE WANTS TO RUN; HE WANTS TO CONQUER HER. FOR ONE FIERCE MOMENT, AS HE GRIPS THE UNEARTHLY BEAUTY TO HIM, HE REGAINS HIS FORMER CONFIDENCE AND CLUTCHES HER BRUTALLY.



DO YOU KNOW OF THE **EMPUSAE**? ANCIENT AND LOVING FEMALE DEMONS SUMMONED FORTH WITH THE ATHAME BLADE!

YOU DESIRE TO KNOW MANY WOMEN. NOW KNOW THE ULTIMATE WOMAN!



HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD OF NAHEMAH? PRINCESS OF ALL SUCCUBAI. WE WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO ENTER MORTAL FORM! I WHO HAVE BEEN ETHEREAL FOR SO MANY CENTURIES NOW SUMMONED FORTH TO INHABIT MORTAL FRAME. I WHO HAVE MISSED THE SCENT OF TREES, THE PHYSICAL TOUCH, HAVE NOW RETURNED TO ACCOMPLISH A MISSION!



HIS COMMAND IS SHORT-LIVED, FOLLOWED WITH A LAUGHTER THAT WHIPS ON THE COLD NIGHT WIND AND TEARS AT HIS EARS.

WITH THE POWER TO TURN YOUR LUST...



SATIN FLESH TURNS TO SCALEY COILS BENEATH HIS FINGERS. SOFT WARMTH BLENDS TO SERPENTINE CHILL.

..... TO REVULSION!



THE CHANGE SHREDS WINTER'S SANITY, HIS ENTIRE BEING RIPPED OPEN AND EXPOSED WITH A MIND THAT SEEKS DESPERATELY TO COMPREHEND WHAT CANNOT BE COMPREHENDED.



OH, SACRED DAUGHTER  
OF HECATE, PRINCESS OF  
THE SUCCUBAI....



COME FORTH INTO  
THIS WORLD OF  
PLASTIC...



COME FORTH INTO THIS  
WORLD OF OVER-POPULATION  
WHERE LONELINESS AND  
ALIENATION ARE DEEPER  
THAN EVER.



AND FEEL THE  
HURT OF YOUR FLESH AND  
BLOOD SISTERS AS YOU  
ENTER MY BEING, FEEL THAT  
HURT AND SEEK  
JUSTIFICATION.



I AM  
HERE, HARRIET  
STONE.

I CAN SENSE  
IT. MY MIND IS  
ONE WITH YOURS.  
THEY MINGLE.



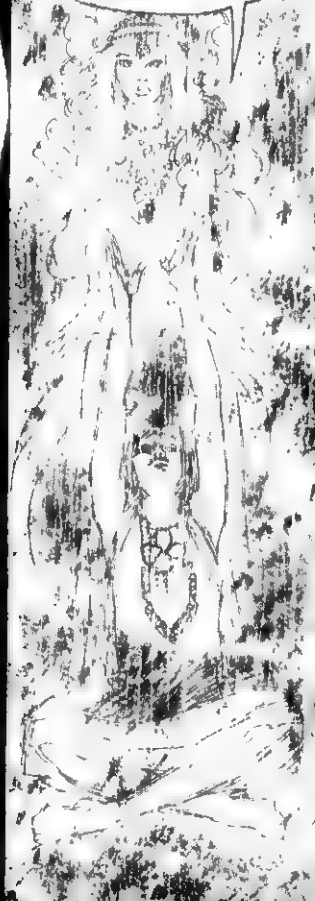
YOU MUST RELAX  
AND LET ME TAKE  
POSSESSION. ALL READY  
I BEGIN TO REALIZE THE  
SENSATIONS I HAVE  
MISSED SO MANY YEARS.  
THROUGH YOUR FINGERS  
I NOW HAVE TOUCH.  
BUT SOON IT WILL BE  
MY TOUCH.

NOT YET. HE  
MUST HAVE ONE  
MORE CHANCE. IF HE  
DOES NOT RELENT,  
THEN I WILL LET YOU  
TAKE FULL POSSESSION.  
BUT YOU WILL NOT  
LIKE THIS WORLD.

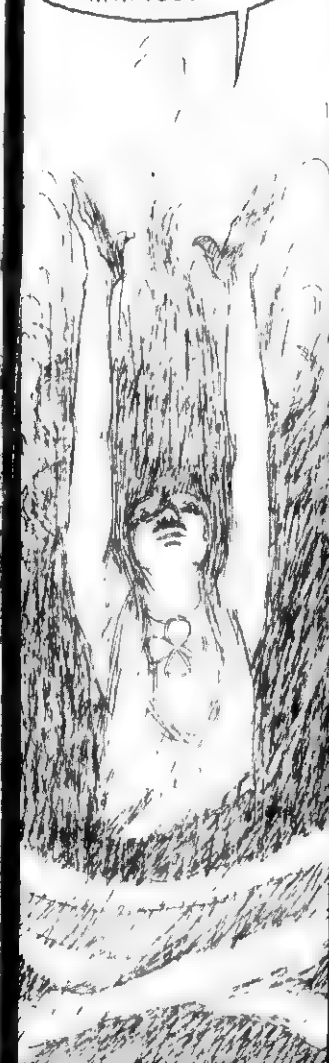


YOU SAY IT IS IMPERSONAL.  
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY  
OF YOU.

YES, BUT IT IS  
THAT WAY. AND CRUEL.  
I SOMETIMES WONDER  
HOW ANYONE CAN  
WANT TO LIVE IN THIS  
JUNGLE, THIS SOOT  
AND GRIME.



BUT NOW YOU  
ARE WITHIN ME, SISTER,  
AND I FEEL A ONENESS  
WITH YOU!





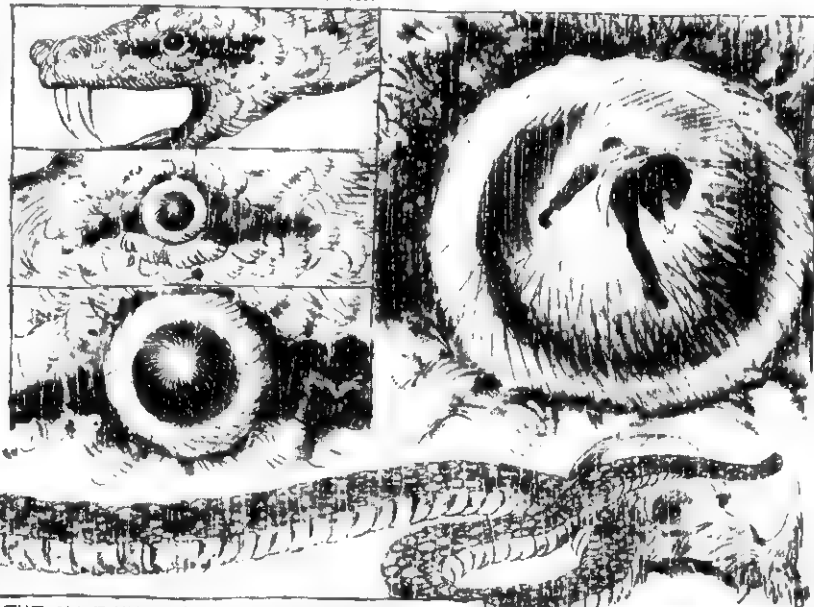
NAHEMAH EXULTS IN THE PANIC SHE CAUSES. SIBILANT HISSES SPLIT THE AIR IN SERPENTINE LAUGHTER.

SHE IS ALIVE ONCE MORE. EVEN THE  
ESSENCE OF FOULED AIR TINGLES AT  
HER NOSTRILS...AND HE KNOWS  
A FEAR BORN OF THE  
ANCIENTS!



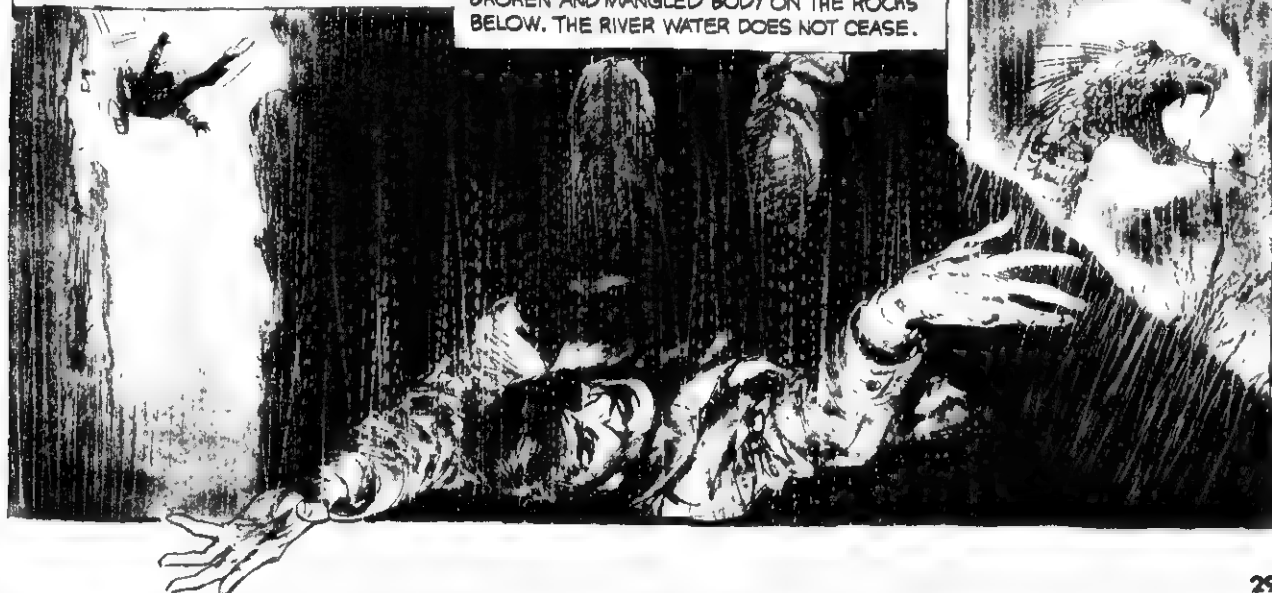
COLD, REPTILIAN EYES WATCH WITH A GLINT OF AMUSEMENT AS THE BROKEN MALE  
FIGURE HURTTLES AWAY CARELESSLY...

AND THEN SHE RELEASES HIM, BONES  
SNAPPED ALONG WITH SPIRIT.



AND FALLS OVER THE EDGE OF EARTH,  
COLLIDING HARD AGAINST THE GROUND AND  
THEN FALLING OUTWARD, SPINNING, INTO  
THE RUSH OF AIR, HURTLING TOWARD HIS  
DEATH.

THE MALE HUMAN'S SCREAMS FADE QUICKLY.  
THE ONLY TESTIMONY TO THE EVENTS IS THE  
BROKEN AND MANGLED BODY ON THE ROCKS  
BELOW. THE RIVER WATER DOES NOT CEASE.





IT WAS ALL  
SO HORRIBLE.....

I SHOULDN'T HAVE  
DONE IT, NAHEMAH!  
WHY DID YOU LET ME  
DO IT?

YOU ALWAYS COMPLAIN,  
HARRIET STONE! YOU BASK  
IN YOUR SELF-MADE  
REALITY OF MISERY AND  
SELF-PITY!

SELF-PITY! NO!  
YOU'RE WRONG!  
I WAS JUSTIFIED!

BUT I WAS **USED**!  
I DID NOT MAKE THAT  
UP!

AGREED. IN **THIS**  
INSTANCE. BUT IT IS  
NOT THE MOMENTARY  
SELF-PITY THAT IS DESPICABLE,  
IT IS THOSE WHO MAKE A LIFE-  
STYLE OF CURSING OTHERS  
FOR THEIR FAILURES!

GIVE ME  
BACK MY BODY,  
NAHEMAH!!

MANY OF YOUR  
RACE JUSTIFY THEIR  
UNSPOKEN, NEARLY  
UNALTERABLE RULE.  
THAT THEY ARE  
DETERMINED TO SEEK  
THEIR OWN BRAND  
OF HELL!

YOU WHO ARE NEVER  
CONTENT, WHO ARE CONSUMED  
BY JEALOUSY AND VIEW OTHERS  
AS BEING THE CHOSEN ONES!  
**WASTING YOUR LIVES ON  
HELLISH NIGHTMARES!!!**

I AM AFRAID THAT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE. IF YOU HAD  
BEEN UNABLE TO TOUCH  
ANYTHING FOR CENTURIES,  
YOU WOULD KNOW WHAT I  
MEAN! NOW I CAN TASTE, I CAN  
FEEL! THERE ARE OTHER MEN  
OUT THERE OF DIFFERENT  
CALIBERS THAN THIS ONE I  
JUST SLEW! I WILL KNOW  
SOME OF THEM. THEY WILL  
COME TO ME!

IF I ALLOWED YOU BACK,  
YOU WOULD CONTINUE TO  
DREAM DREAMS OF DESPAIR.  
YOU WOULD NOT ENJOY  
THESE SENSATIONS... **YOU  
WOULD CONTINUE TO  
WAIL YOUR SAD-EYE  
SYMPHONY: VERSES  
RHYMED TO CONSOLE  
ONLY YOURSELF!**

BUT BELIEVE ME  
HARRIET, I SHALL ENJOY  
EACH PERCEPTION.

I REALLY  
SHALL!!!

JUST A LITTLE LESSON  
TAKEN OUT OF THE ARCHIVES.  
FIEND READERS, SO  
REMEMBER, THE NEXT TIME  
YOU'RE OUT ON THE STREETS  
SEEKING TO USE SOMEONE,  
IT JUST MIGHT BE SOMEONE  
THAT WILL USE YOU! SWEET  
FANTASIES!!!



LONG NIGHTS OF INTENSE INVESTIGATION AND SEARCHING FINALLY BARE FRUIT AS TWO PRIESTS OF THE VILLAGE OF ALBA LULIA IN TRANSYLVANIA CLOSE IN UPON ONE OF THE UNDEAD, TRAPPING HIM WITHIN THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT BUILDING.



THERE, MONSIGNOR... IN THE DOORWAY... THE VAMPIRE THAT HAS TERRORIZED OUR VILLAGE!

OUR QUEST IS SUCCESSFUL. THE MONSTER IS TRAPPED. WITH THE LORD'S HELP, FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE.

AURALEON



HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE. HURRY! WE MUST NOT LOSE HIM THIS TIME.

DON'T WORRY. IT SHALL BE HIS FINAL ESCAPE ATTEMPT. FOLLOW HIM.

THE ANCIENT STONE FLOOR RESOUNDS LOUDLY TO THE VAMPIRE'S POUNDING FEET. FOOTPRINTS IN DUST UNDISTURBED FOR YEARS LEAVE A CLEAR TRAIL...



# THE CRY OF THE DHAMPIR

...WHICH LEADS, INEVITABLY, TO A HIGH CEILINGED ROOM WITH THE ONLY DOOR BLOCKED BY THE PRIESTS.



SPAWN OF SATAN! YOUR SOUL, DAMNED FOR ALL ETERNITY, WILL SOON GROVEL FOREVER IN THE FIERY PITS OF HELL.

THE BEGINNINGS OF ANOTHER TYPICAL VAMPIRE EPIC, YOU SAY... WHERE YOU KNOW BEFOREHAND EACH MOVE OF THE CHARACTERS ... AND THE END COMES DEEP IN SOME ANCIENT CATACOMB WHERE THE DOCTOR POUNDS THE CLICHÉ-RIDDEN STAKE DEEP INTO THE VAMPIRE'S BLOATED HEART. NO... NOT THIS TIME. A BREATH OF FETID AIR DIRECT FROM LEFT FIELD WILL SOON OVERTHROW ALL THE CLICHES AND CARRY WITH IT THE UNEXPECTED CRY OF THE DHAMPIR.

ART BY AURALEON / STORY BY JOHN JACOBSON



YOU TALK TOO MUCH, MAN OF GOD. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOUR TRACKING SKILL FOUND ME?



A QUICK JERK OF THE BELL ROPE RELEASES A CUNNINGLY PREPARED TRAP DOOR IN THE FLOOR, SENDING THE STARTLED PRIESTS FALLING INTO THE CELLAR...



COULD IT BE THAT I WANTED YOU TO FIND ME?



AN IRONIC END FOR VAMPIRE KILLERS... IS IT NOT?



DON'T WASTE YOUR EFFORT, BYRON. I AM ALREADY ONE OF THE UNDEAD... AS YOU WELL KNOW.



YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED? YOU CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE... AND SO TELL OTHERS.

DAEGGA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE... SO FAR FROM YOUR ... HOME?

WHILE IN THE FORM OF A BAT I WITNESSED YOUR FLIGHT FROM THE PRIESTS. I SAW YOU TRAPPED IN THIS BUILDING AND ENTERED IN HOPES OF PROVIDING SOME HELP. I HAVE NO LOVE FOR WOULD-BE VAMPIRE KILLERS. BUT BEFORE I COULD COME TO YOUR RESCUE YOU SPRANG YOUR LITTLE TRAP DOOR AND SENT THEM TO AN ALLEGED HEAVENLY REWARD.

AND A CLEVER TRAP IT WAS, TOO. THOSE PRIESTS WERE MAKING MY SURVIVAL INCREASINGLY PERILOUS. I RIGGED THIS TRAP LAST NIGHT AND ALLOWED THEM TO FOLLOW ME TONIGHT. BUT... AGAIN... WHY ARE YOU HERE?



THE ANSWER IS DRAMATICALLY PROVIDED AS DAEGGA LEADS BYRON TO ANOTHER ROOM OF THE ANCIENT BUILDING.

IF YOU HAD GIVEN THIS BUILDING A GOOD GOING OVER BEFORE PREPARING YOUR TRAP, YOU WOULDN'T ASK THAT QUESTION. LOOK THERE.



A COFFIN? WHOSE? IT'S NOT ONE OF MINE. YOURS THEN?





NO...NOT MINE. THE OWNER IS STILL IN THE COFFIN... COMPLETELY DESTROYED... ANNIHILATED... RETURNED TO THE FINEST ASH. HE WAS DESTROYED SO SUDDENLY THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO RESIST. LOOK AT HOW UNRUFFLED THE CLOTHING IS.

BUT WHAT KILLED HIM? I SEE NOTHING OF DANGER TO US HERE.

YOU KNOW WELL OF THE HIGH NUMBER OF VAMPIRE DEATHS DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, BYRON.

YES, I'VE HEARD STORIES...FILTERED THROUGH GOSSIPY OLD WOMEN. BUT I PAID THEM NO HEED.

A VAMPIRE BY THE NAME OF VLADIMIR CAME TO ME A FEW MONTHS AGO WITH A THEORY THAT THE DEATHS WERE NOT RANDOM, BUT CAUSED BY ONE AGENCY. SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION, HE CAME TO THIS VILLAGE. WHEN I CAUGHT UP TO HIM HE HAD ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED. THIS IS WHAT REMAINS OF HIM.

DAEGGA UNBOLTS THE SHUTTER TO THE WINDOW. IT SWINGS OPEN, GIVING AN UNRESTRICTED VIEW OF THE VALLEY IN WHICH IS LOCATED THE VILLAGE. SOUNDS OF MUSIC AND GAIETY FLOAT UP FROM BELOW.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DESTROYED HIM?

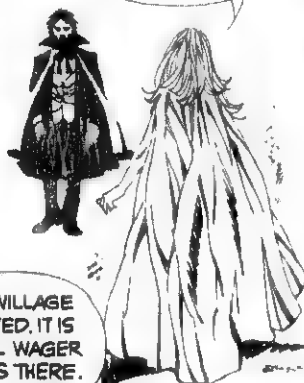
WAGER ANYTHING? EVEN YOUR EXISTENCE?

THIS...THING... PLACES US IN DANGER ANYWAY. WILL YOU COME WITH ME...TO THE CIRCUS...IF ONLY TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND?

IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE, FAIR VAMPIRA. IT WILL BE AN INTERESTING CHANGE FOR ME. TOO LONG HAVE I CONSORTED ONLY WITH CREATURES OF THE NIGHT, CUT OFF FROM ALL HUMAN FRIVOLITY. THE LAUGHTER OF RED BLOODED CHILDREN SHALL DO MY SOUL GOOD.



THERE IS A CIRCUS AT THE EDGE OF TOWN... THE SAME CIRCUS WAS AT EACH VILLAGE IN WHICH A VAMPIRE WAS DESTROYED. IT IS MORE THAN COINCIDENCE. I'LL WAGER ANYTHING THAT OUR ENEMY IS THERE.



LAUGH NOW, IF YOU MUST. I ONLY PRAY THAT YOU, AND NOT SOMETHING... ELSE... WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH.

SOON, AT THE CIRCUS, BYRON AND DAEGGA ARE SURROUNDED BY THE UNFAMILIAR SIGHTS OF HAPPY CROWDS OF PEOPLE OUT FOR A NIGHT'S FUN.



THE ANSWER IS HERE. BUT HOW CAN WE FIND IT AMONG THESE HIDEOUSLY NOISY CROWDS OF PEOPLE.

WE NEED PRIVACY. ONLY IN SOLITUDE CAN WE USE OUR POWERS SAFELY.



THE GYPSY...HER TENT WOULD BE DARK AND QUIET. THERE WOULD BE NO INTERRUPTION AS WE... PUT HER TO THE QUESTION.



THE FUTURE HOLDS MUCH FOR YOU, DEAR. LOVE AND SUCCESS WILL COME YOUR WAY.

SOMEBODY IS ALREADY IN THERE WITH HER.

INSIDE THE TENT.

LOVE? WILL IT BE THE BOY I AM SEEING NOW?

I MUST SEARCH DEEPER INTO THE SWELLING MISTS INSIDE THE BALL... PEER CLOSER INTO THE MYSTIC WORLD.

NOT FOR LONG, DAEGGA. THE GIRL WILL BE LEAVING SOON... VERY SOON.



THE MISTS HIDE FROM ME THE ONE WHO WILL SEEK YOU OUT, BUT.



... BUT ... WHERE ARE YOU GOING, GIRL? I HAVEN'T FINISHED YET.



I ... AH ... BUT ...

... BUT MY MONEY... YOU HAVEN'T PAID ME ... AHH.



BEWILDERED BY THE STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS, THE OLD GYPSY BADE'S DAEGGA BE SEATED AT THE TABLE. TENSION HANGS HEAVILY IN THE CONFINED WAGON.

AH ... WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO KNOW OR LEARN?



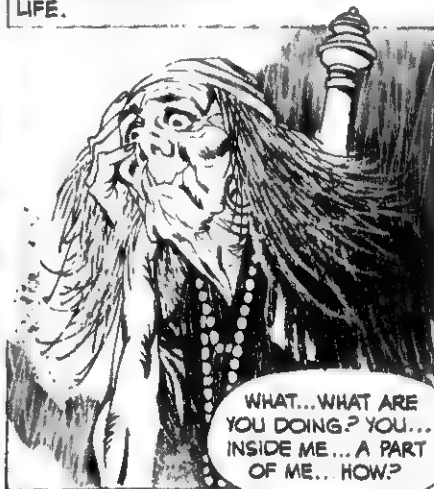
MADAM, CAN I HAVE MY FORTUNE TOLD?



DAEGGA DOES NOT SPEAK. HER WILL ARCS THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM AND ENTERS THE GYPSY'S MIND ON A BEAM OF POTENT MENTAL ENERGY...



...PROBING WITH GENTLE YET FORCEFULL WISPS OF POWER AMONG THE CLUTTERED MEMORIES OF A NOMADIC LIFE.



WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU... INSIDE ME... A PART OF ME... HOW?

SLOWLY THE RANDOM PARTS OF AN ANCIENT MEMORY ARE JOINED TOGETHER.



IT WAS ALL SO LONG AGO... IT WAS YESTERDAY. HE IS GROWN NOW... BUT THAT CAN'T BE ... HE IS NOT YET BORN...

I AM EXPECTING OUR FIRST CHILD. BUT THE COMING OF NIGHT BRINGS NO THOUGHTS OF PLEASURE, BUT ONLY VISIONS OF TERROR...



...NOT TERROR OF THE UNBORN, BUT / TERROR...



... OF THE UNDEAD !!!



HIS MOUTH... HIS TEETH... SO LONG... SHARP... BUT I CAN DO NOTHING... HE HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE... AND EACH TIME I FALL MORE UNDER HIS POWER...



WAIT... WHAT IS THE MATTER... WHY IS HE TURNING AWAY?



IT IS MY HUSBAND!

DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL RIGHT. THE EVIL IS DESTROYED. YOU ARE SAFE.

PLEASE STAND ASIDE ... QUICKLY. THIS OPPORTUNITY... SO RARE... CANNOT BE LIGHTLY DISMISSED.

YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER HAS BEEN MOST WELCOME. BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY WIFE, IF I MAY ASK?

WE ARE CREATING A WEAPON FOR THE LORD'S BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS.

YOU, YOUNG LADY, ARE RARE... A PREGNANT WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN VISITED BY A VAMPIRE AND SURVIVED. ADDING TO THE VAMPIRIC RESIDUE IN YOUR BLOOD THE POWER OF GOD ADMINISTERED BY THESE RITES WILL INSURE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

...THAT YOUR OFFSPRING WILL HAVE THE SUPERNATURAL POWER TO DESTROY VAMPIRES AT A TOUCH.

YOUR FAMILY WILL BECOME BLESSED IN THAT A MEMBER WILL BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE LORD'S BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF SATAN... HE WILL BE A...DHAMPIR.

WHAT I HAD HEARD PRAYED ON MY MIND FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT. I TOSSED AND TURNED AND WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY SLEEP. HOW UNBELIEVABLE THAT I WAS TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD.

WE ARE HONORED AND THANKFUL, FATHER.

THE ROOM IS OPPRESSIVE. THE VAMPIRE HAS BEEN DESTROYED... BUT AN AURA OF EVIL STILL CLINGS TO THIS WAGON...



...HOVERING OVER ME...WAITING  
FOR A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS...



PRETTY WORDS,  
GYPSY WOMAN. BUT  
I AM NOT YET  
DESTROYED.



BUT I AM TOO WELL  
PROTECTED. YOU SHALL  
NEVER GET BY THIS.



AAAAHHH!!!!

YOU TOOK ME  
BY SURPRISE,  
VAMPIRA. BUT THE  
FORCES OF EVIL  
CANNOT LONG KEEP  
THE FORCES OF  
GOOD AT BAY.



THAT WILL  
BE TAKEN CARE  
OF SHORTLY,  
HELLSPAWN!

I KNOW ALL  
I NEED TO KNOW  
...AND YOU KNOW  
TOO MUCH.



AHHH, MY  
HEAD! HELP ME,  
SOMEONE!!!

DESPERATION LENDS STRENGTH  
TO DAEGGA AS SHE FLINGS A  
HEAVY PAIR OF BOOTS AT THE  
ADVANCING WOMAN.

WHA...!



...TAKEN CARE  
OF...YES, BY  
ME!!!



HELP ME!!!  
HEL.....!!!

AS DAEGGA KNEELS BY THE DEAD WOMAN AND SATISFIES HER UNHOLY THIRST THE REAR DOOR OPENS.

A MOMENT'S GLANCE INTO THE HATE-FILLED EYES OF THE YOUNG MAN SHOWS DAEGGA THAT SHE IS CONFRONTED BY THE...



DAEGGA RUNS THROUGH THE TWISTING ALLYS OF THE CIRCUS, BLIND TO EVERYTHING BUT THE THOUGHT OF ESCAPE. UNTIL...



THEIR ESCAPE IS INTERRUPTED WHEN A MAN STUMBLES FROM THE SHADOWS AND...



WHAT DID YOU EXPECT ME TO DO WITH HER. I COULDN'T LET HER GO, NOW COULD I? IF WE PLAY THINGS RIGHT, THIS MAY WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE...





...WITH EVERYONE RUNNING TO SEE WHAT THE COMMOTION IS WE'LL HAVE A CLEAR ROUTE OF ESCAPE.

MUST YOU LEAVE THE CIRCUS SO SOON, VAMPIRES. IT REALLY IS THE HIGH SPOT OF VILLAGE SOCIAL LIFE FOR THE YEAR.

AHHH! BYRON!!!

I KNOW. IT'S THE DHAMPIR.



YOU REALLY MUST LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND. HERE... TAKE MY HAND.

DO SOMETHING, BYRON. HE'LL KILL ME... US...

GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF, DAEGGA. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL YOU RELEASE ME FROM YOUR STRANGLEHOLD.

OUT OF HER MIND WITH FEAR, DAEGGA GRIPS BYRON AS TIGHTLY AS SHE CAN, PREVENTING HIM FROM TAKING ANY ACTION AGAINST THE DHAMPIR.

YOU'VE COMPLETELY LOST CONTROL, DAEGGA. I HAVE NO CHOICE. ALL IS LOST FOR ME, UNLESS...



INTO THE WOODS. CATCH AND DESTROY HIM QUICKLY.



...I SACRIFICE YOU!!!

BYRON!!! NO!!!

A STRONG LEAP CARRIES BYRON OVER THE STONE WALL INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE WOODS BOARDERING THE CIRCUS.

'TIS A PITY, DAEGGA DEAR, BUT YOU LOST YOUR HEAD AT THE MOMENT YOU NEEDED IT MOST. BUT YOU GAVE ME THE EXTRA FEW SECONDS I NEED TO COMPLETE MY ESCAPE.



WHICH WAY DID THE OTHER ONE GO?



NO... NOT IN THE WOODS  
... ABOVE THE WOODS.

THE SUDDEN MID-AIR ATTACK CATCHES BYRON  
COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.

I'M SAFE FOR THE  
MOMENT. THE DHAMPIR,  
CAN'T REACH ME WHILE  
I'M IN THE FORM OF  
A BAT.

BUT THE DHAMPIR, A SUPERNATURAL  
BEING WITH THE BLOOD OF VAMPIRES  
FLOWING IN HIS VEINS, HAS RESOURCES  
TO DRAW UPON THAT BYRON COULD  
NEVER GUESS.

A SATANIC MIRACLE THROWS BYRON  
CLEAR OF THE IMPACT BEFORE THE  
DHAMPIR'S TALONS CAN SINK INTO HIS  
BODY.

TWISTING AND TURNING IN THE SKY  
ABOVE THE CIRCUS, BYRON RAPIDLY  
TIRES. EACH SWIPE OF THE DEADLY  
TALONS COMES CLOSER...

... UNTIL...

YOU ...  
DHAMPIR ... ALSO  
THE GREAT BIRD  
THAT ATTACKED  
ME?

YES. HALF OF MY  
HERITAGE IS VAMPIRE AND  
I HAVE MANY OF YOUR  
POWERS... WHICH MAKES  
ME UNBEATABLE.

BUT ENOUGH  
TALK. I AM DELAYING  
MY HOLY MISSION...  
THE DESTRUCTION OF  
ALL VAMPIRES.

WAIT... SPARE ME...  
I CAN BE OF USE TO YOU...  
INFORMATION ON OTHER  
VAMPIRES... IF YOU LET  
ME LIVE.

IT'S ALWAYS INTERESTING TO HEAR WHAT THE VAMPIRES WILL OFFER ME IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR LIVES...AS I ADVANCE FOR THE FINAL...

...KILL!!!

BLAM!

ANOTHER VAMPIRE WHO WON'T BE BOTHERING GOD-FEARING FOLK AGAIN.

YOU'VE LUCKY, YOUNG MAN. IN ANOTHER SECOND YOU'D HAVE BEEN DONE IN.

THE SILVER BULLET DID ITS JOB WELL.

OUR VILLAGE HAS BEEN BOTHERED LATELY BY A VAMPIRE. WE Banded TOGETHER IN SECRET TO PREPARE WEAPONS AGAINST THIS CREATURE. WHEN THE ALARM WAS GIVEN TONIGHT WE WERE READY TO GO INTO ACTION.

SILVER BULLET? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH SILVER BULLETS AT THE CIRCUS?

WE SAW HIM FROM AFAR CHANGING INTO HUMAN FORM FROM A GREAT WHITE DEVIL BIRD. ONLY THOSE IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL HAVE SUCH POWERS.

SLOWLY THE CROWD DISPERSES. THE HOUR IS LATE AND THE VILLAGERS BEGIN RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES.

HA! HA! HA! YES DHAMPIR...YOU DID HAVE MANY OF MY POWERS... AND ALSO ONE OF MY WEAKNESSES... SILVER WAS AS DEADLY TO YOU AS IT IS TO ME.

A SLIGHT SOUND... BYRON SPINS AROUND.

YOU! THE DHAMPIR'S GIRLFRIEND. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU'D HAVE ENOUGH SENSE TO GET OF THE AREA.

AN INCREDIBLE ACT...YOU ACTUALLY HAD HIM DESTROYED. YOUR KIND WILL SING SONGS OF THIS FOR MANY CENTURIES TO COME.





YOU WON'T LIVE TO HEAR ANY OF THEM.



NOR YOU, VAMPIRE!



BYRON FEELS A DEEPENING CHILL. THIS IS NOT THE TYPICAL SCREAMING, WHIMPERING VAMPIRE VICTIM. SHE IS TOO SELF-CONFIDENT... TOO COMPOSED.

YOU WERE LUCKY THIS EVENING... VERY LUCKY. BUT YOUR LUCK HAS JUST BEEN EXHAUSTED.



THERE IS ONE FACT YOU FAILED TO LEARN ABOUT THE GYPSY WOMAN. NINE MONTHS AFTER THE VAMPIRE VISITED HER, SHE GAVE BIRTH...



... TO TWINS!!!



I AM NOT HIS LOVER... I AM HIS TWIN SISTER... AND A DHAMPIR LIKE HE WAS.



IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE A GOOD VAMPIRE KILLER HANG UP HIS STAKE AND RETIRE.

OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM OF ARTHUR TOLTOR, AGING INVESTIGATOR OF SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA, TWO FIGURES CONVERSE IN LOW TONES, THEY ARE TOLTOR'S DAUGHTER, MARILYN AND HER HUSBAND, HENTON WENTWORTH. THE WENTWORTHS SPEAK QUIETLY SO AS NOT TO BE OVERHEARD BY THE PATRIARCH LYING QUIETLY IN HIS BED, READING.

ARTHUR TOLTOR HAD SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF THE BIZARRE OR SUPERNATURAL. YET LATELY HIS KEEN MIND SEEMED TO WEARY UNDER THE BURDEN OF HIS ADVANCING YEARS.

THE ONCE BRILLIANT PSYCHIC INVESTIGATOR HAD BECOME OBSESSED AND THERE WAS NO WAY OF TURNING BACK THE CLOCK. HE HAD ACCUSED MARILYN'S CHILD OF BEING A DEMON SUBSTITUTE FOR HER REAL CHILD AND NO ONE BELIEVED HIM. HOW COULD THEY? HOW COULD ANYONE? HE CLAIMED THAT THE SUBSTITUTE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, JOYCE WHO HAD DIED SHORTLY AFTER MARILYN'S LITTLE GIRL WAS BORN.

EVER WONDER WHY EVERYBODY BUT YOU IS SO OUT-OF-STEP? MEET ARTIE TOLTOR. HE TRIED TO TELL THEM BUT NOBODY LISTENED. WHO'D WANT TO BELIEVE THEIR LITTLE BABY IS REALLY A...

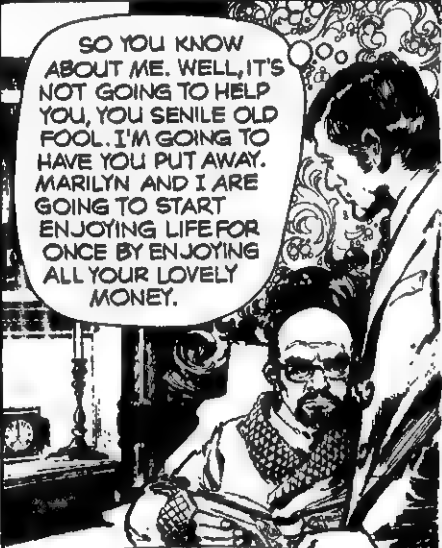
HOW ARE YOU TODAY, FATHER?

DO YOU MEAN AM I STILL SENILE AND RAVING?


NOW ARTHUR, WOULD WE THINK SUCH A THING?

YOU WOULD IF YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD PROFIT FROM IT.

# DEMON CHILD

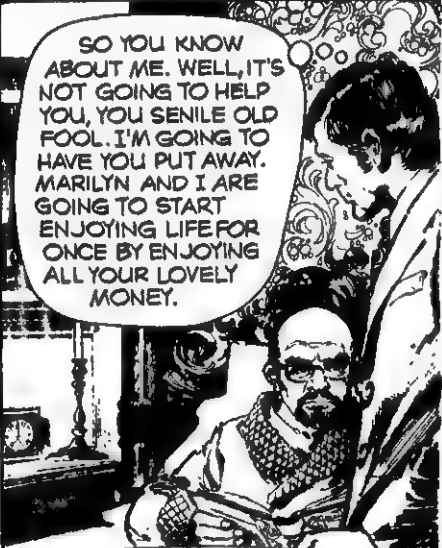


SO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME. WELL, IT'S NOT GOING TO HELP YOU, YOU SENILE OLD FOOL. I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU PUT AWAY. MARILYN AND I ARE GOING TO START ENJOYING LIFE FOR ONCE BY ENJOYING ALL YOUR LOVELY MONEY.

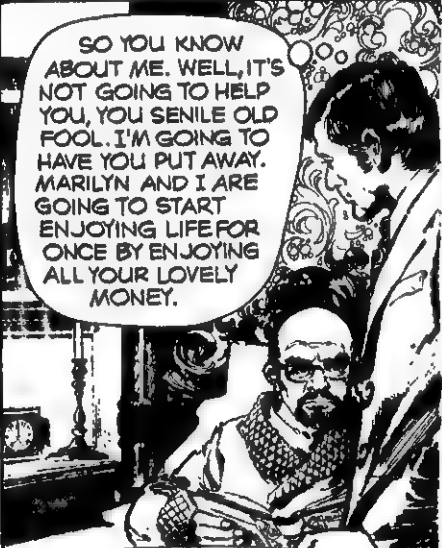


JOYCE KNEW AND THEY KILLED HER FOR IT. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW PRETTY SHE WAS? SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE WHEN I NEEDED HER, NEVER AFRAID. NOW SHE'S GONE. I REMEMBER THAT DARK DAY IT ALL BEGAN.

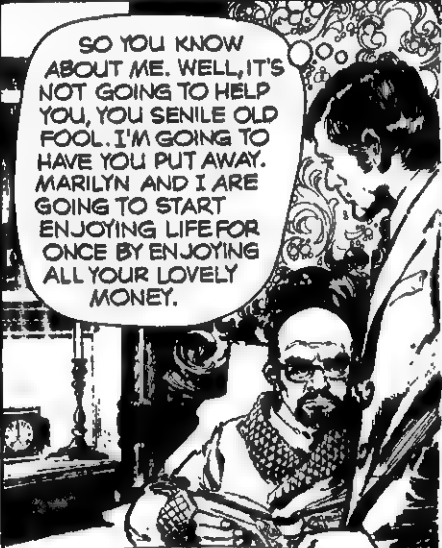
AND HE WENT INTO REVERIE RELIVING THE PAST.



HENTON'S PLAN WAS SIMPLE, GET THE OLD MAN TO RANT ABOUT HIS PET OBSESSION-- LITTLE MARY. ONCE WORKED UP HENTON COULD BRING IN WITNESSES AND HAVE TOLTOR PUT AWAY. NO QUESTION THAT THE OLD MAN WAS IRRATIONAL... JUST GET HIM WORKED UP AND HE WOULD DO THE REST.



I'LL IGNORE THAT REMARK, ARTHUR. MARILYN AND I HAVE COME TO TRY AND CONVINCE YOU FOR THE LAST TIME THAT JOYCE DIED A NATURAL DEATH. SURELY YOU MUST REALIZE JUST HOW STRANGE YOUR STORY SOUNDS.



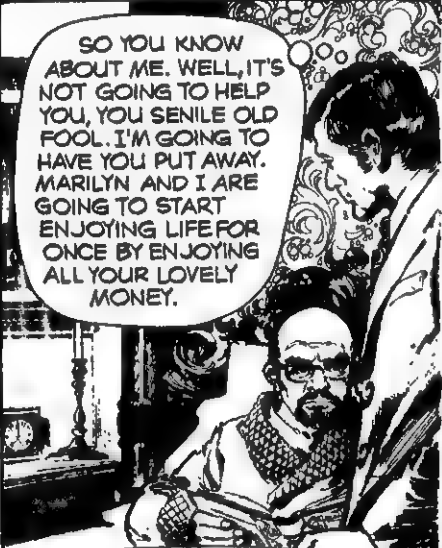
THE HELL YOU HAVE! ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS SEEING ME PUT AWAY SO YOU CAN GET CONTROL OF THE ESTATE. YOU'RE SO DAMN BUSY TRYING TO COMMIT ME THAT YOU CAN'T SEE THE DANGER YOU'RE IN.



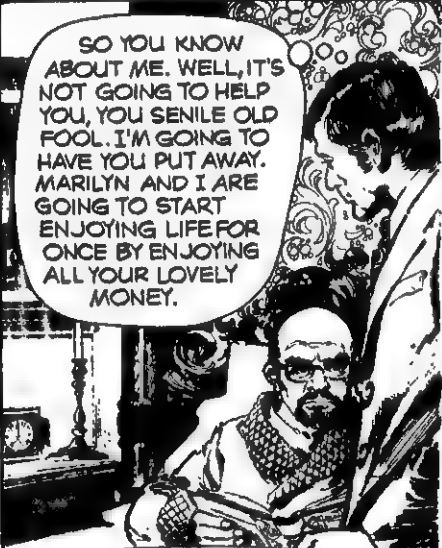
IT ALL STARTED WHEN JOYCE AND I FOUND THE BOOK... OH, IF ONLY WE HADN'T...



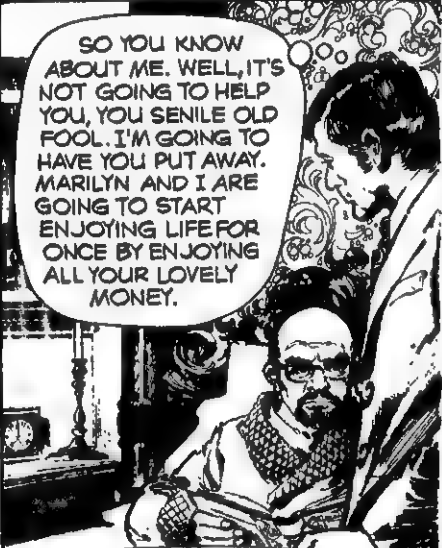
ARTHUR, IS IT WHAT WE THOUGHT IT WAS?



YES, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF INVESTIGATING SUPERFICIAL MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SUPERNATURAL, WE HAVE AT LAST UNEARTHED THE GENUINE ARTICLE.



I'M AFRAID, ARTHUR. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE BOOK THAT SCARES ME. IT REEKS OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL. PERHAPS WE SHOULD BURN IT WHILE WE ARE STILL ABLE.

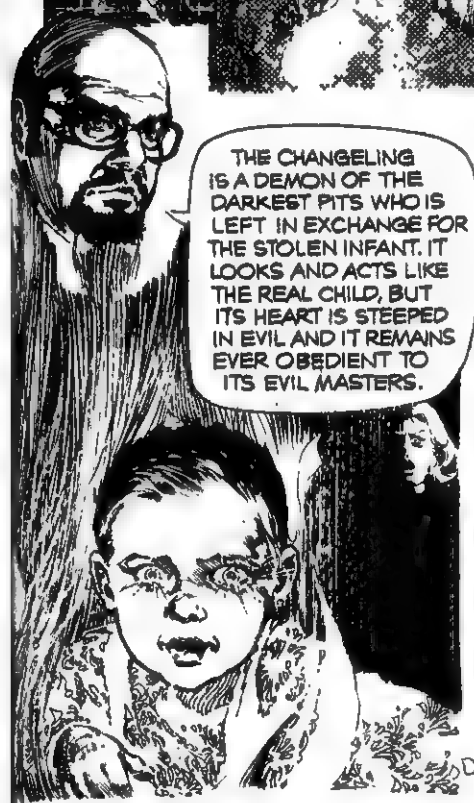


IF ONLY I HAD LISTENED TO HER FEARS SHE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE. IT WAS IN THAT BOOK THAT WE FIRST READ OF THE CHANGELING... HOW THE LORDS OF DARKNESS STEAL HUMAN INFANTS AND LEAVE DEMONS IN THEIR PLACE.





THEN SEVERAL YEARS LATER MARILYN HAD THE BABY. JOYCE DISCOVERED THAT YOUR CHILD, YOUR LITTLE MARY, HAD FALLEN VICTIM TO THE WHIMS OF THE DARK LORDS AND WAS STOLEN AS IF FROM THE WOMB ITSELF.



THE CHANGELING IS A DEMON OF THE DARKEST PITS WHO IS LEFT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE STOLEN INFANT. IT LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE THE REAL CHILD, BUT ITS HEART IS STEEPED IN EVIL AND IT REMAINS EVER OBEDIENT TO ITS EVIL MASTERS.



WHEN JOYCE SAW THE CHANGE SHE WARNED ME ABOUT IT. SOON AFTER... THEY KILLED HER FOR WHAT SHE KNEW AND I LOST MY WIFE, THE FIRST CASUALTY IN THE HOPELESS BATTLE.



POOR MOTHER, SHE DIED SO UNEXPECTEDLY.

NOT UNEXPECTEDLY. THEY KILLED HER FOR WHAT SHE KNEW. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT? WHY. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

FATHER, PLEASE CALM DOWN. REMEMBER WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID...

DAMN THE DOCTOR! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD A WORD I'VE SAID? DID YOUR MOTHER DIE IN VAIN? SHE TRIED TO WARN YOU THAT THE THING YOU'RE RAISING IS NOT YOUR CHILD. WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO SAVE THE REAL MARY?

HENTON COULD ALMOST FEEL VICTORY IN HIS GRASP TOTOR WAS RAVING NOW, ALMOST AT THE DROP OF A HAT. NOW ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS GET SOMEONE TO WITNESS THE OLD MAN'S FRIGHTENING MENTAL DETERIORATION.

ARTHUR, MARILYN IS RIGHT. TAKE IT EASY.

WE'RE NOT UP TO ANYTHING, BUT THEN I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE THAT.

FOR ONCE WE AGREE, I'D SOONER TRUST A SNAKE.

VERY WELL ARTHUR. I'M CURIOUS THOUGH, YOU SPOKE OF A BOOK YOU AND JOYCE FOUND. JUST WHAT ABOUT THIS PRICELESS AND TERRIFYING TREASURE?

DON'T PATRONIZE ME, YOU YOUNG FOOL. DO YOU THINK I'M BLIND TO WHAT'S GOING ON BEHIND MY BACK?

MORE BED TIME STORIES, HENTON? ITS CALLED SIMPLY **THE BOOK OF THE ANCIENTS**. IT WAS WRITTEN IN THE DIM BEGINNING WHEN MAN'S AWARENESS OF THE FORCES OF EVIL THAT BUFFET US FROM CRADLE TO TOMB WAS JUST TAKING SHAPE. THE BOOK REVEALED THE SECRETS OF THE AGES AND WAS PASSED DOWN THROUGH TIME TO WARN MAN OF THE DANGER.

JOYCE AND I FIRST CAME ON THE BOOK WHILE INVESTIGATING A MAN WHO DABBLED IN THE OCCULT. HE HAD TRIED TO USE THE SECRETS OF THE BOOK TO GAIN POWER. UNFORTUNATELY, THE FORCES WERE FAR TOO POWERFUL TO BE CONTROLLED. THEY DESTROYED HIM.

IT WAS IN THAT BOOK THAT WE FIRST LEARNED OF THE PLOT.

• LORDS OF DARKNESS... WHY I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY SUCH BEINGS OR GODS. SOUNDS LIKE HOBGOBLINS TO ME!

PLOT? WHAT PLOT?

WHY YOU SMIRKING JACKAL! I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU OF A DANGER THAT CONCERNS NOT ONLY YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER, BUT ALL OF MANKIND AS WELL! HOBGOBLINS! YOU'RE A FOOL, HENTON! A VERITABLE FOOL!

THE LORDS OF DARKNESS... GRIM AND TERRIBLE DEITIES THAT WAIT ON THE EDGE OF TIME AND SPACE... CREATURES CAPABLE OF INCREDIBLE EVIL AND INSATIABLE LUSTS.

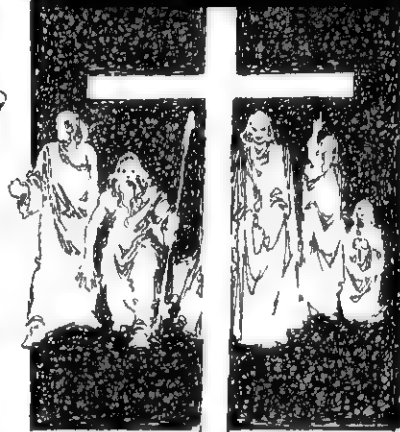


MORE, HENTON?  
HOW AN OLD MAN RAVES,  
EH? THE BOOK TELLS HOW  
AGES AGO MAN  
WORSHIPPED TERRIBLE  
DEITIES. HE SURRENDERED  
COMPLETELY TO THEIR  
POWER AND COMMITTED  
FOUL ACTS TO WIN FAVOR  
IN THEIR EYES.

GODS THAT WERE  
AT THE SAME TIME  
SUPREMELY POWERFUL AND  
COMPLETELY CORRUPT FIENDS  
THAT REVELED IN EVERY FOUL  
AND VILE ACT MAN COULD  
DEVISE. THOSE THAT PRAYED  
TO THEM DIED IN STRANGE AND  
HORRIBLE DEATHS. AND WITH  
EACH NEW DEATH THE LORDS  
OF DARKNESS GREW IN  
POWER.

FINALLY, AFTER  
YEARS OF SUFFERING,  
MAN REALIZED THE  
UNPARALLELED EVIL OF  
HIS GODS. IT WAS THEN  
HE TORE DOWN THEIR  
FILTHY ALTARS AND  
BANISHED THEM FROM  
EARTH WITH  
POWERFUL SPELLS.

INTIME THERE WERE  
OTHER RELIGIONS AND MORE  
BENEVOLENT GODS TO PRAY TO.  
SOON ALL THE OLD FEARS  
WERE FORGOTTEN AND THE  
MEMORY OF THE DARK ONES  
FADED FROM MEMORY. BUT THE  
ANCIENT SPELLS OF PROTECTION  
WERE FORGOTTEN TOO. THUS...  
THE DANGER THAT THE DARK  
ONES WOULD RETURN  
ANEW!





THE LORDS OF DARKNESS WERE NOT DESTROYED, ONLY FORCED TO LEAVE EARTH. THEY WAITED PATIENTLY TILL THE INCANTATIONS WERE FORGOTTEN. THE BOOK OF THE ANCIENTS HAS THOSE SPELLS AND NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THEM. IT IS ONLY MY KNOWING THOSE SPELLS THAT HOLDS BACK THE DARK LORDS FROM POURING BACK INTO OUR WORLD. ONLY I CAN STOP THEM, BUT I CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER.

IT WAS GOING BETTER THAN HENTON HAD HOPED. THE OLD MAN WAS CONSUMED WITH DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION AND GRANDEUR. WITH FIENDISH GLEE, HENTON PUSHED WE WAITED STILL MORE.

WHAT ARE THEY PLOTTING, ARTHUR?

WHAT'S THE USE? YOU DON'T BELIEVE A WORD I'VE SAID. THE IRONY OF IT ALL IS THAT YOUR STUPIDITY AND CUPIDITY WILL DOOM ALL OF MANKIND.

THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY TELLING ME WHAT YOU KNOW.

THEY'VE NEVER FORGIVEN MAN FOR ABANDONING THEM. THEY HAVE WAITED FOR COUNTLESS YEARS TO RETURN TO EARTH AND WITH THE USE OF THE DARK POWERS, MOLD IT INTO A LIVING HELL TO SUIT THEIR PERVERSE PLEASURES.

A SMALL FIGURE LISTENED TO EVERY WORD THE ADULTS SPOKE BEHIND THE BEDROOM DOOR. SHE LISTENED CLOSELY AND WAITED.

BUT HOW, ARTHUR? HOW ARE THEY GOING TO DO IT, ARTHUR?

ARE YOU SO BLIND, HENTON? HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT YET?

I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T. NOT JUST YET, ANYWAY.

WITH SURPRISING STRENGTH, TOLTOR GRIPPED HENTON'S THIN ARM.

FIRST THEY MUST BE RID OF ANY THAT KNOW THEM..THAT IS WHY JOYCE WAS MURDERED AND WHY I AM NEXT! ONCE WE ARE GONE THEY WILL CULTIVATE THEIR SINISTER CULT AGAIN AND RETURN FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER. FOR BOTH PARTS OF THIS MASTER PLAN, THEY NEED THE SERVICE OF THE CHANGELINGS.

NOT AGAIN PLEASE...NOT AGAIN, FATHER.

SURELY YOU CAN'T EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT OUR OWN LITTLE MARY IS A...A...A

A DEVIL.

THAT'S ABSURD ARTHUR! MARY IS JUST A NORMAL LITTLE GIRL AND NOTHING MORE.

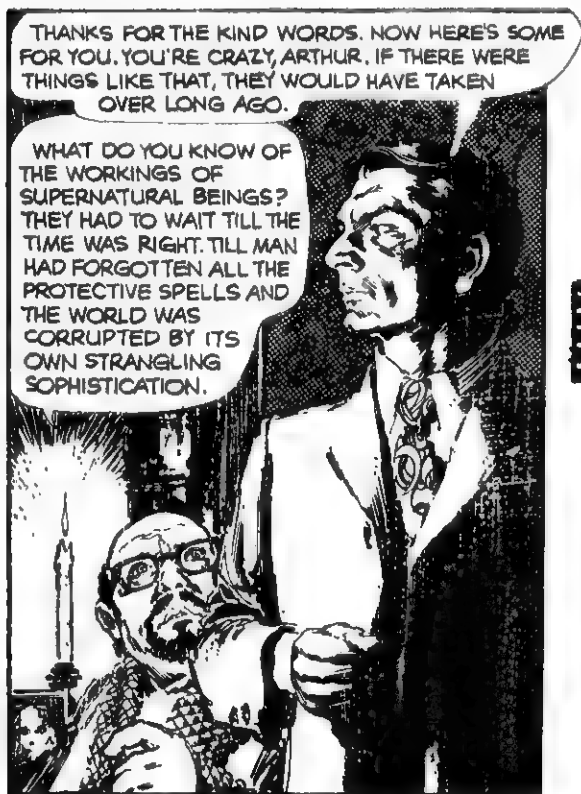
SHE IS NOT JUST A NORMAL CHILD. SHE IS NOT YOUR REAL DAUGHTER AND SHE IS NOT MY GRANDCHILD!!! WHAT'S MORE THAT THING ISN'T EVEN HUMAN. SHE'S A CHANGELING, A DEMON LEFT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE REAL MARY. PLEASE SEE THAT BEFORE THEY TAKE ME! PLEASE!

THE FIGURE IN THE HALL OPENS THE DOOR TO BETTER HEAR THE WORDS SPOKEN IN HER DEFENSE. SHE KNOWS THAT NO ONE WILL BELIEVE THE OLD MAN, NO ONE AT ALL.

THE CHANGELING WAS LEFT WITH YOU FOR A TWO-FOLD PURPOSE. ONE TO SLAY THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNEW A WAY TO PREVENT THE RETURN OF THE DARK ONES, JOYCE AND MYSELF. THE OTHER WAS TO TWIST YOUR EVIL TO SUIT THEIR NEEDS. THEY WILL NEED PEOPLE LIKE YOU -- GRASPING, SELF-CENTERED, UNSCRUPULOUS, AND AVARICIOUS, TO SPREAD THEIR EVIL TEACHINGS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

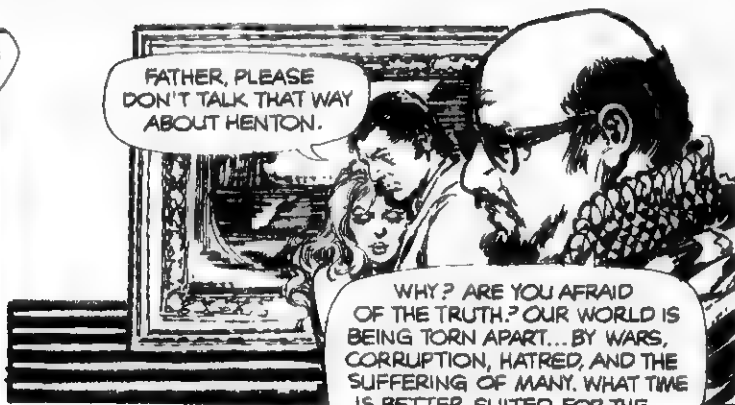
SUPPOSE FOR ONE MINUTE THAT I BELIEVE YOU, WHICH OF COURSE I DON'T, GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY OUR CHILD WAS TAKEN BY YOUR HOBGOBLINS?

WHY SHOULD GODS NEED ANY REASONS TO DO AS THEY PLEASE? THEY ACT WITHOUT SECOND THOUGHT, BUT THIS TIME I'M ALMOST SURE THERE WAS A REASON FOR SELECTING YOUR BABY.



THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS. NOW HERE'S SOME FOR YOU. YOU'RE CRAZY, ARTHUR. IF THERE WERE THINGS LIKE THAT, THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN OVER LONG AGO.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE WORKINGS OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS? THEY HAD TO WAIT TILL THE TIME WAS RIGHT. TILL MAN HAD FORGOTTEN ALL THE PROTECTIVE SPELLS AND THE WORLD WAS CORRUPTED BY ITS OWN STRANGLING SOPHISTICATION.



FATHER, PLEASE DON'T TALK THAT WAY ABOUT HENTON.

WHY? ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE TRUTH? OUR WORLD IS BEING TORN APART... BY WARS, CORRUPTION, HATRED, AND THE SUFFERING OF MANY. WHAT TIME IS BETTER SUITED FOR THE RETURN OF THE DARK GODS?



ARTHUR TOLTOR KNOWS HE IS FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE. WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS HE KNOWS THAT HE IS NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF THE LORDS OF DARKNESS.



MOMMY, WHAT IS A CHANGING?

FATHER, YOU'RE SCARING MARY.

THAT'S CHANGELING, DARLING. IT'S REALLY NOTHING, JUST A STORY TO FRIGHTEN LITTLE GIRLS WHO HAVE BEEN BAD.

HEAR THAT, HELLSPAWN? YOU'VE FOOLED THEM ALL.

MOMMY?

NO ONE BELIEVES MY STORY! NOW YOU CAN KILL ME JUST LIKE YOU DID MY WIFE. YOU KNEW THAT NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT WE'D BOTH GONE SENILE, SO YOU MURDERED HER AND LET ME LIVE TO SEE IF ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE MY STORY.





MOMMY,  
GRANDFATHER  
HATES ME.

THAT'S RIGHT  
DEMON. YOU TOOK  
THE ONLY WOMAN I'VE  
EVER LOVED AWAY. WHY  
DIDN'T YOU KILL ME  
AND LET HER LIVE?

FATHER, I'M  
SHOCKED. YOU'RE  
FRIGHTENING THE  
CHILD.



NOT NEARLY  
AS MUCH AS SHE  
FRIGHTENS ME.

I WANT  
TO THANK YOU,  
ARTHUR.

FOR  
WHAT?

FOR GIVING ME  
SUCH A STRONG CASE.  
I'M GOING TO HAVE  
SOMEONE DRAW UP PAPERS  
FOR YOUR COMMITMENT.  
SOON YOU'LL BE PUT WHERE  
YOU CAN'T HARM ANYONE AND  
YOU CAN TELL GHOST  
STORIES TO YOUR HEART'S  
CONTENT. YOU'LL BE WITH  
YOUR OWN KIND, ARTHUR!  
CRAZY PEOPLE WHO REALLY  
BELIEVE IN HOBGOBLINS.



THEN GET OUT  
OF HERE. WITHOUT  
KNOWING THE SPELL,  
IT'LL ONLY BE A  
MATTER OF TIME  
BEFORE THEY COME  
AND WHEN THEY DO,  
THERE'LL BE NO  
HOLE DEEP ENOUGH  
FOR YOU TO HIDE IN.  
GO ON, GET  
OUT.



IN THE DARK RECESSES OF HIS MIND ARTHUR  
TOLTOR PRAYS THAT HE IS TRULY SENILE. FOR  
IF HE IS SANE, THEN THE WORLD IS DOOMED TO  
DIE-- SCREAMING IN HORRIBLE AGONY, HE  
FOUND HIMSELF THINKING OF HIS LATE WIFE  
AND THE JOYS THEY HAD KNOWN.



THEN THE DOOR OPENED JUST  
FAR ENOUGH TO LET A SMALL  
HEAD LOOK BACK INTO THE  
ROOM. THE ANGELIC FACE  
THAT SPOKE OF EVIL AND  
TRIUMPH. THE GLOATING SMILE  
TOLD ARTHUR TOLTOR THAT  
HE WAS NOT SENILE, NOT AT  
ALL.

POOR ROSEMARY!  
DO YOU SUPPOSE  
SHE HAD TWINS?



THE CASTLE STANDS IN THE MIDST OF TOWERING TREES, ITS TURRETS THRUSTING FORTH FROM THE FOLIAGE. IT BELONGS TO ANOTHER AGE. IT REFLECTS A STRANGE COMBINATION OF EARLY HOLLYWOOD GOTHIC AND A NOBLE EUROPEAN HERITAGE.

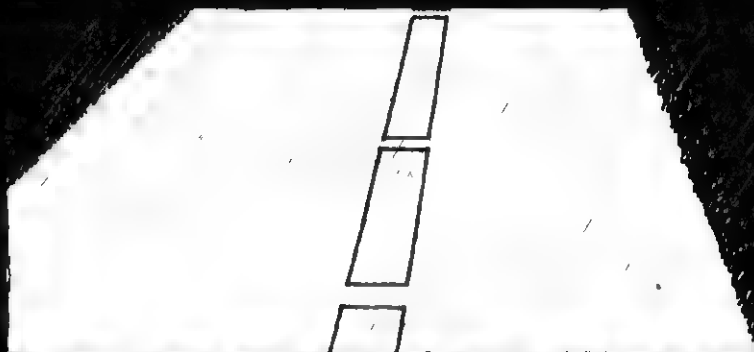
BUT THIS IS NOT TRANSYLVANIA, AND THE CASTLE STANDS NOT FAR FROM THE GREY POLLUTION-STAINED SKIES OF NEW YORK CITY. IT IS A RELIC, AND AS SUCH, IT STANDS ANONYMOUSLY AMONGST THE BIRCH AND PINE. PERHAPS WAITING TO CARRY ON A TRADITION.

THIS IS GREYSTONE CASTLE, AND IT IS VERY MUCH A TWENTIETH-CENTURY REALITY. IT STANDS ALONE AND SEEMINGLY DISCARDED. THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT AFFAIRS IN THE WORLD TODAY THAN MONUMENTS TO DAYS LONG FORGOTTEN. YET, THERE IS AN ECHO HERE OF DISTANT HORRORS.

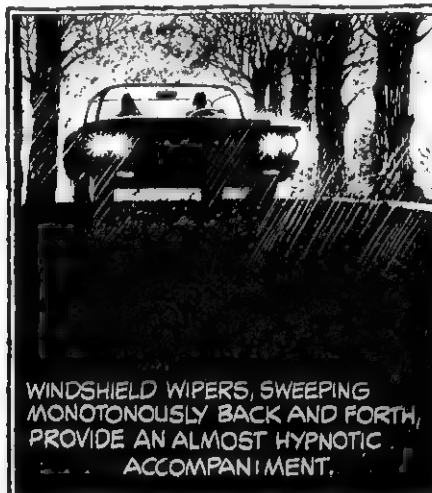


# THE VAMPIRESS STALKS THE CASTLE THIS NIGHT

AND ON NIGHTS WHEN THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE TURN CHAOTIC, THE ECHO IS MAGNIFIED, AND STILLNESS BECOMES, MORE THAN EVER, A SYMBOL OF ITS PATIENCE. THERE IS AN ODD FEELING THAT PERVADES THE AREA AND DEFINES THE NATURE OF THAT WAITING AS ANTICIPATION. THERE IS NEW PREY ABOUT.

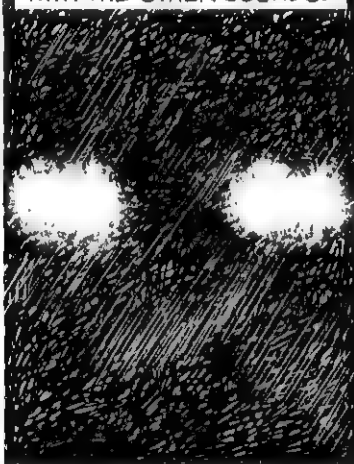


THE WET MACADAM WHISTLES HOLLOWLY UNDER THE TIRE TREADS....



WINDSHIELD WIPERS, SWEEPING MONOTONOUSLY BACK AND FORTH, PROVIDE AN ALMOST HYPNOTIC ACCOMPANIMENT.

THE TWO PEOPLE DRIVE IN SILENCE. STATIC FROM THE RADIO BLENDS IN UNNOTICED WITH THE OTHER SOUNDS.



DONALD CARPENTER AND SANDRALEE DEVENS ARE AWARE OF THE ISOLATION ABOUT THEM.



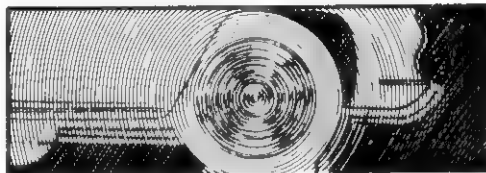
DAMN IT!!! THIS ROAD SEEMS TO GO ON FOREVER! JUST TREES AND MORE TREES!



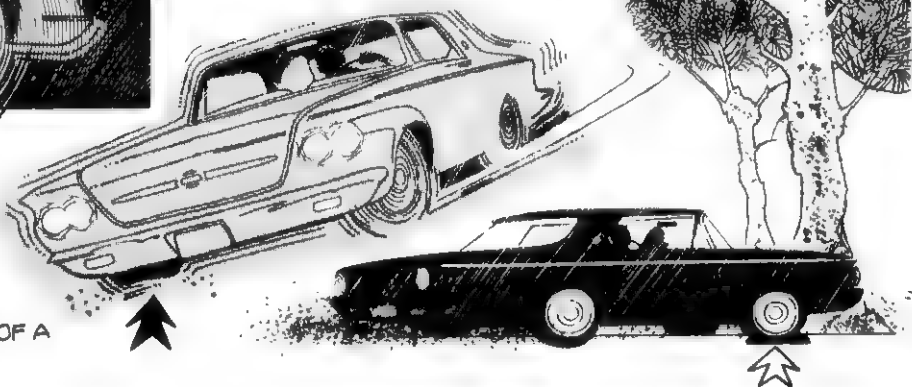
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? WE HAVEN'T ANY REAL PLACE TO GO.

FORGET HOW THAT NIGHT SEEMS ONLY A HAZY MEMORY, REPLACED WITH A TODAY....

...HEAVY AND GREY AS THE NIGHT SKY.



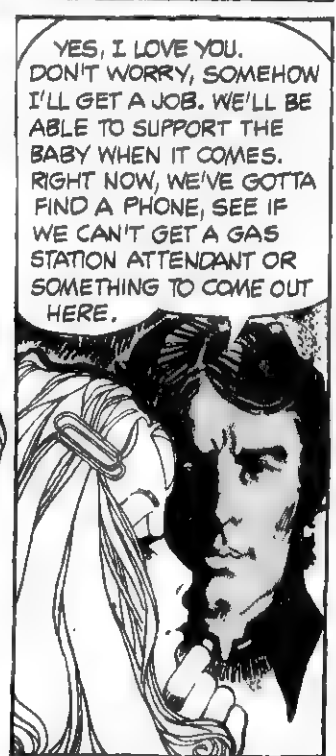
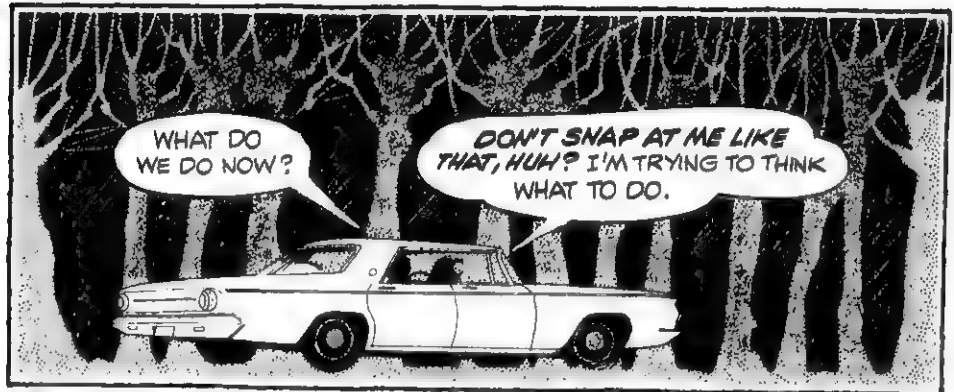
FORGET THE LOST DESPAIR IN HER VOICE, DONALD CARPENTER. STOP COMPARING THAT MELANCHOLY NOTE WITH THAT HUSKY, SENSUAL VOICE WHICH WAS ONE PART OF A DISTANT NIGHT.



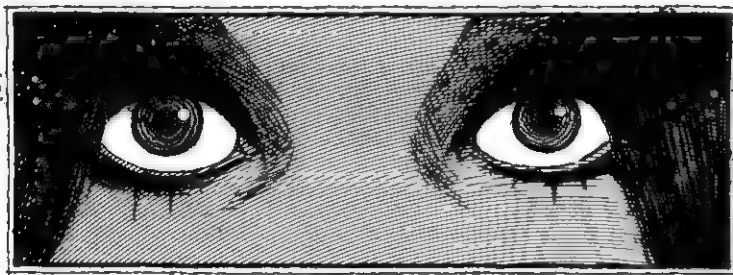


THEIR WORDS ARE HARSH IN THE QUIET AS THEY DISCUSS THEIR FLIGHT. THEY ARE BOTH SEVENTEEN. THEY ARE BOTH FRIGHTENED AS THEY BEGIN TO REALIZE THE REAL PRICE WHICH MUST BE PAID FOR ONE HUMAN BEING'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER

THEY ARE NOT ONLY AWARE OF EACH OTHER BUT ALSO OF THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES, AND THAT SANDRALEE DEVENS CARRIES WITHIN HER THEIR UNBORN CHILD. THE LAST REMAINING FACT LEAVES THEM COLD THEY CAN NEVER RETURN TO WHERE THEY BEGAN



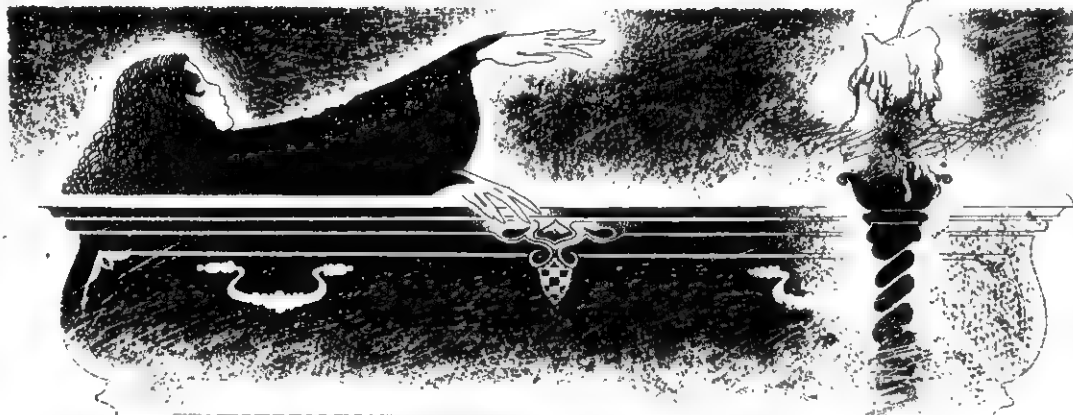
THERE IS ONE OTHER CREATURE STIRRING THIS NIGHT.



HER NAME IS CHRISTINA GREYSTONE.



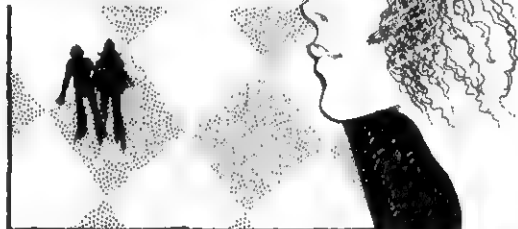
NOW SHE AWAKENS TO ANOTHER NIGHT OF SEEKING NOCTURNAL PREY.



LITHE, SEDUCTIVE, IN THE FAINT MOONLIGHT, SHE APPEARS MUCH AS SHE DID WHEN LIFE PULSED THROUGH HER VEINS.



SHE MOVES TO ONE OF THE ANCIENT WINDOWS, BARELY REMEMBERING HER PAST, CONCERNED ONLY WITH THE PRESENT; AND THE PRESENT REVEALS TWO FRAIL DARK FORMS MOVING THROUGH THE TREES TOWARD HER DOMAIN.

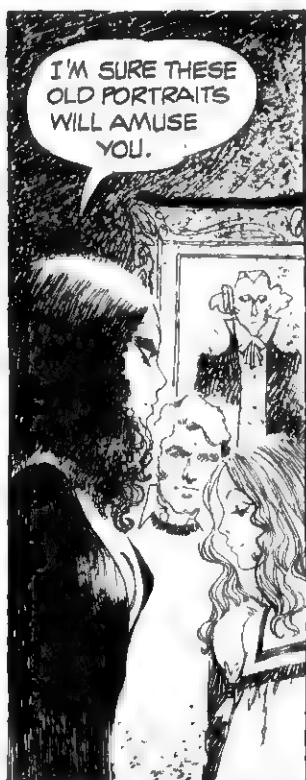


DONALD CARPENTER IS STILL THINKING OF THAT NIGHT. IT IS STRIPPED OF ITS ROMANTICISM NOW, ALL THAT IS LEFT IS THE UNBORN REALITY. AS THEY WALK TO THE CASTLE, AS HE HEARS HIS OWN VOICE IN THE STILLNESS, EVEN AS HE MARVELS AT THE IMMENSITY OF STONE BEFORE THEM, HE FEELS A MIXTURE OF EMOTIONS: UNCERTAINTY, MOMENTS OF HOSTILITY SPRINGING FORTH FROM A SENSE OF OPPRESSION, AND A FIERCELY PROTECTIVE SENSATION TOWARD THIS GIRL-WOMAN WHO WALKS HESITANTLY BESIDE HIM.

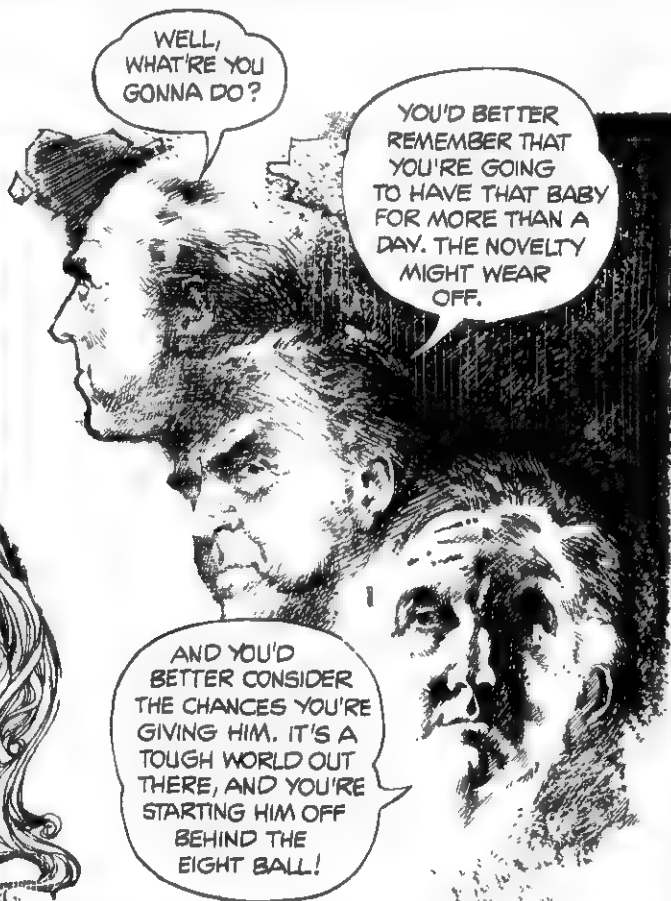




THE VAMPIRESS CAN BARELY CONTROL HERSELF. SANDY'S SLENDER WHITE THROAT HYPNOTIZES HER, TEMPTING HER TO FORGET CAUTION. YET, CAUTION DOES NOT DESERT HER, AND COMES TO HER WITH THE CUNNING OF THE ANIMAL. SHE MANAGES TO KEEP HER VOICE FROM TREMBLING.



NOW SANDRALEE DEVENS IS WALKING THROUGH THE DIMLY LIT ROOM. PERHAPS, IF HER PAST WERE NOT SO VIVIDLY WITH HER AS SHE GAZES ABOUT, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE FORBIDDING ATMOSPHERE OF GREYSTONE CASTLE. BUT THE PAST IS WITH HER AND DULLS HER SENSES. SHE REMEMBERS HER FATHER'S FACE, HEARS AGAIN HIS WORDS OF THE EVENING BEFORE WHEN SHE AND TOMMY TOLD HER PARENTS ABOUT THE BABY...

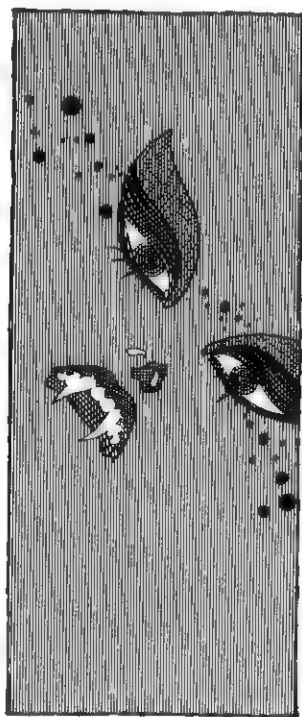


WELL,  
WHAT'RE YOU  
GONNA DO?

YOU'D BETTER  
REMEMBER THAT  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO HAVE THAT BABY  
FOR MORE THAN A  
DAY. THE NOVELTY  
MIGHT WEAR  
OFF.

AND YOU'D  
BETTER CONSIDER  
THE CHANCES YOU'RE  
GIVING HIM. IT'S A  
TOUGH WORLD OUT  
THERE, AND YOU'RE  
STARTING HIM OFF  
BEHIND THE  
EIGHT BALL!

CHRISTINA GREYSTONE FEELS THE FAMILIAR SURGING IN HER VEINS. CARTILAGE STRETCHES AND AN ODD BIOLOGICAL REACTION BEGINS.





IN MOMENTS NOW, THE FAMILIAR SENSATION WILL OCCUR. CHRISTINA'S STRONG, THIN HANDS WILL HOLD THE YOUNG GIRL HELPLESS AS HER TEETH DIP INTO THE GIRL'S NECK, SEEKING THE JUGULAR VEIN.



FEAR BECOMES CERTAINTY. DOES IT REALLY MATTER SO MUCH, SANDRA DEVENS? DOES THE FUTURE HOLD SO MUCH PROMISE?

WHY STRUGGLE? WHY STRUGGLE FOR A LIFE SO DOUBTFUL?

HOW MUCH CAN IT HURT? IT WILL BE NO MORE THAN A MOMENT OF SEARING PAIN.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN IT MAKE?





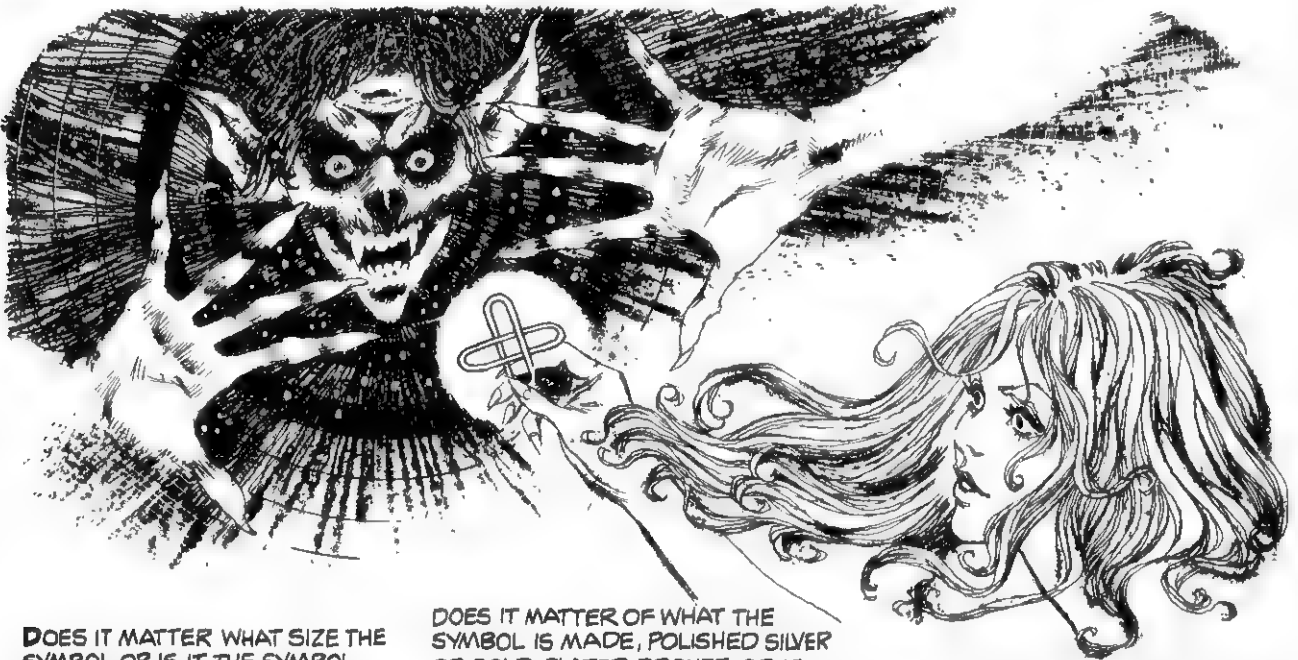
THE SCENT OF THE FEMALE VAMPIRESS IS STRONG IN HER NOSTRILS AND SNEEPS ASIDE THE SELF-PITY. YES, IT IS WORTH LIVING. THERE IS STILL PROMISE. AND SHE IS NO LONGER SURE WHETHER SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO THE DECISION OF LIFE OR DEATH NOW THAT IT IS NOT ONLY HER LIFE THAT IS THREATENED.



REMEMBER AND STRUGGLE FOR LIFE, FIGHT TO RETAIN THAT LIFE, AND GROW STRONG IN THAT FIGHT, FOR TWO LIVES, NOT ONE ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE OUTCOME.



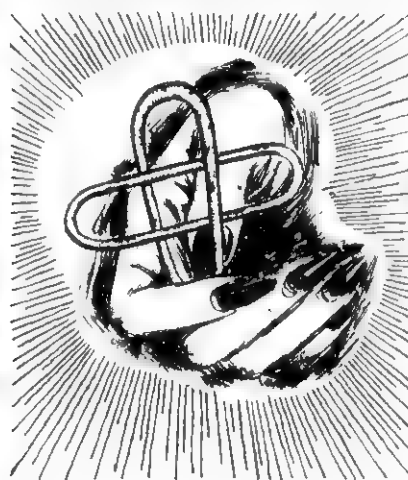
REMEMBER THE VAMPIRE'S WEAKNESS. CROSSES! THE SYMBOL OF GOOD AS OPPOSED TO THE SYMBOL OF EVIL. BUT YOU HAVEN'T ANY SUCH CROSS, DO YOU? OR DO YOU?



DOES IT MATTER WHAT SIZE THE SYMBOL OR IS IT THE SYMBOL ITSELF WHICH IS IMPORTANT?



DOES IT MATTER OF WHAT THE SYMBOL IS MADE, POLISHED SILVER OR GOLD-PLATED BRONZE, OR IS IT THE FORM THAT IS IMPORTANT?

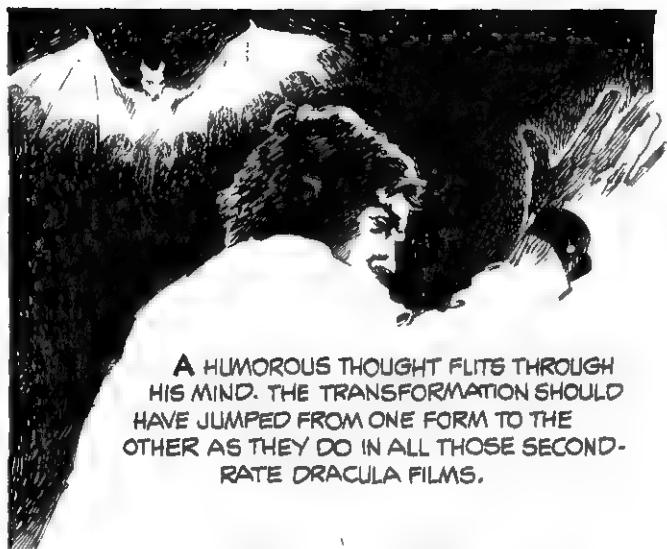


THE VAMPIRESS' SHRIEKS ECHO OFF THE DOMED CEILINGS IN REPLY, AND SANDRALEE DEVENS FORGETS ABOUT THE MIRACLE TAKING PLACE WITHIN HER AND WITNESSES A TRANSFORMATION THAT DEFIES ANYTHING IN HER EXPERIENCE.





DONALD CARPENTER WATCHES THAT TRANSFORMATION IN REVERSE. THE FRAGILE REALITY OF HIS MIND CAN BARELY ACCEPT THE FLUID CHANGE FROM FEMALE TO NOCTURNAL CREATURE.



A HUMOROUS THOUGHT FLITS THROUGH HIS MIND. THE TRANSFORMATION SHOULD HAVE JUMPED FROM ONE FORM TO THE OTHER AS THEY DO IN ALL THOSE SECOND-RATE DRACULA FILMS.

VIOLENT SOUNDS ECHO OFF THE SILENT WALLS: THE BEATING WINGS AGAINST THE AIR, THE DULL IMPACT OF STUMBLING FLESH, THE HIGH-PITCHED SHRILL OF THE ATTACKING SHE-CREATURE.

THERE ISN'T TIME TO WONDER HOW THIS CAN BE HAPPENING. RAZOR TEETH SHRED FLESH AND THE PAIN STIMULATES ACTION.



HE LASHES OUT, STRIKING, SOB-BING. BRIEF IMAGES OF SANDRA-LEE SOMEHOW APPEARING IN THE CONFUSION.

SOMEHOW, HE MANAGES TO GRIP THE VICIOUS FORM. HIS FINGERS ARE WET WITH BLOOD, YET HE HOLDS ONTO THE STRUGGLING, SUDDENLY FEARFUL BEING IN HIS HANDS.





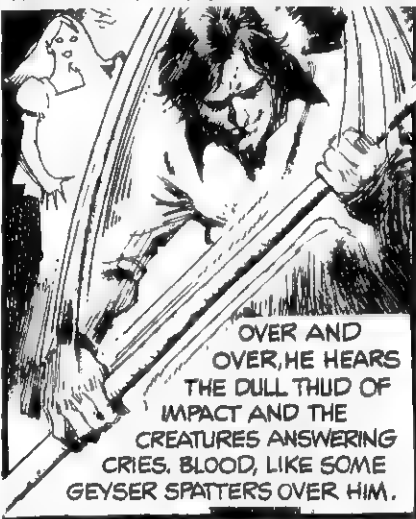
IN TERROR, HE REACHES OUT FOR ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT AID HIM IN DEFEATING THIS CREATURE.



HE IS NOT EVEN AWARE OF WHAT HIS REACHING FINGERS GRASP.



THE WOODEN HANDLE OF THE FLAG-STAFF SLAMS SAVAGELY DOWN ONTO THE PULSING CHEST BELOW. OVER AND OVER, HE FEELS HIMSELF SLAMMING THAT POINT OF WOOD DOWN...



OVER AND OVER, HE HEARS THE DULL THUD OF IMPACT AND THE CREATURES ANSWERING CRIES. BLOOD, LIKE SOME GEYSER SPATTERS OVER HIM.

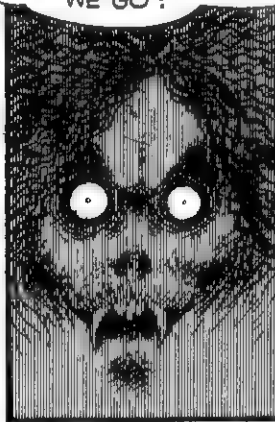
PERHAPS IT IS ONLY A TEMPORARY INSANITY THAT HAS HELD HIM. HE STAGGERS AWAY, NOT WANTING TO WITNESS HIS OWN SAVAGERY. THE SIGHT WILL STAY WITH HIM, HE KNOWS, LURKING JUST BEHIND HIS CLOSED EYE-LIDS.



WHAT WAS SHE?

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OUT OF THE NIGHT. I SAW HER CHANGE INTO...

I SAW IT TOO. WHAT DO WE DO NOW? WHERE DO WE GO?



BACK OUT THERE... INTO THE DARK.



NO ONE'LL EVER BELIEVE US IF WE TELL THEM ABOUT THIS. WE COULD NEVER CONVINCE THEM.



SHHH...DON'T WORRY. WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

I KNOW... I KNOW.

I'M SCARED.

The end

SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

# VAMPIRELLA

## BACK ISSUES



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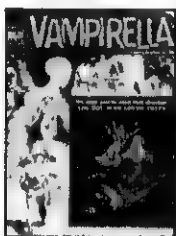
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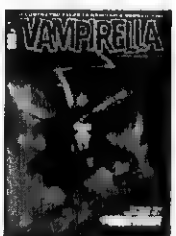
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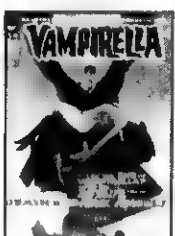
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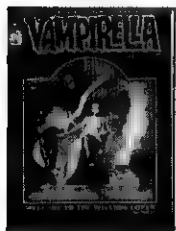
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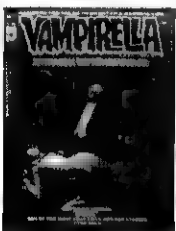
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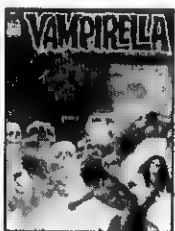
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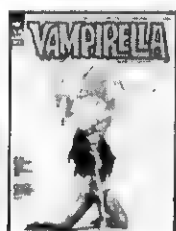
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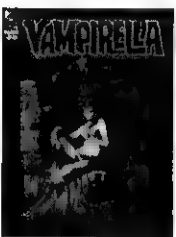
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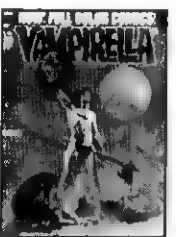
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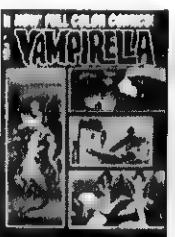
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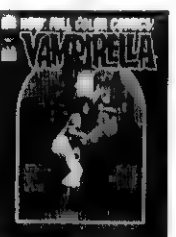
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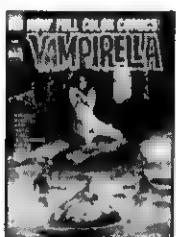
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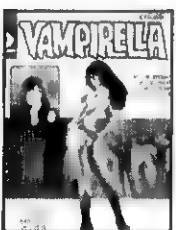
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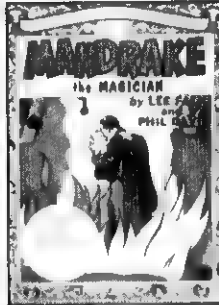
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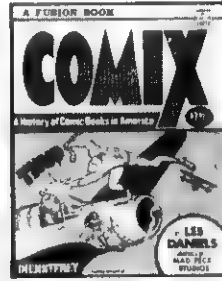
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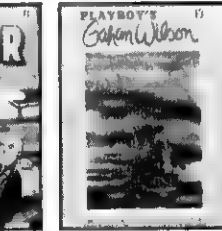
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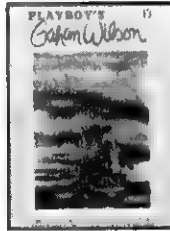
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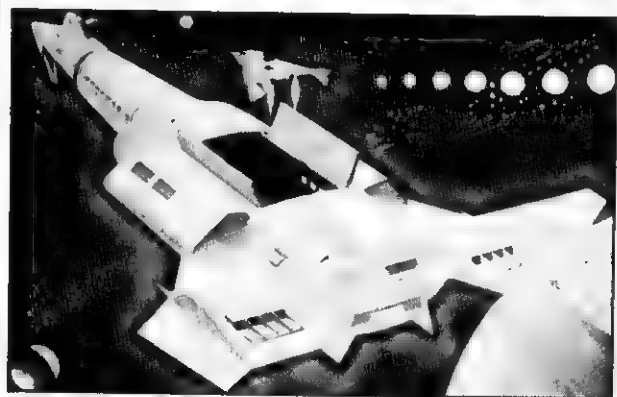
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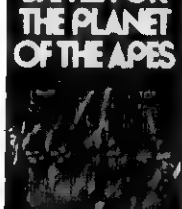
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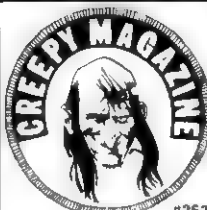


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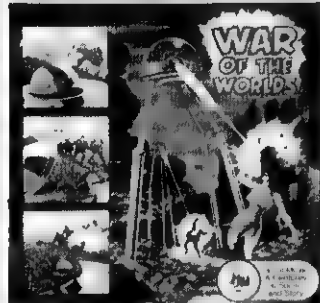
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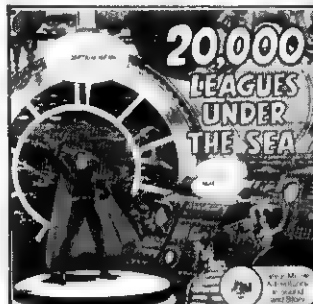
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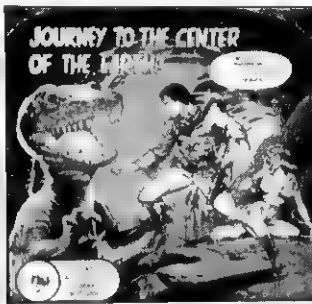
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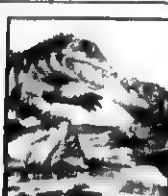
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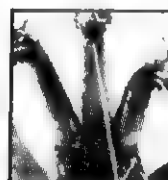
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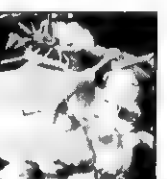
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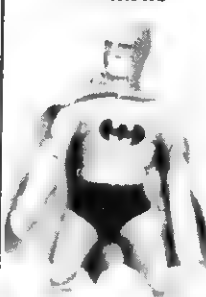
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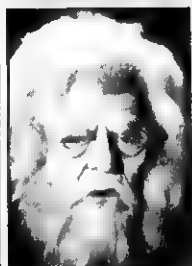
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**THE ZOMBIE!** Ghastly hand-painted pitted green face, and corpse-pale yellow hair! Like he just came out of his grave! He could be you! Scare your family out of their wits! DELUXE ZOMBIE MASK \$39.50 #2546



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**MR. HYDE!** Surely the most bestial version of Robert Louis Stevenson's immortal monster yet! Be another John Barrymore, Spencer Tracy or Jack Palance! Horribly Hydeous! #2534 DELUXE MR. HYDE MASK \$39.95



**GORILLA LOOSE!** That's what they'll say when they see you in this one! Ideal for all occasions, mainly unpleasant ones. Highly realistic hair! Vicious teeth, too! #2549 DELUXE GORILLA MASK \$39.95



**THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON!** One of the fishiest folk heroes of the Fifties! All latex-rubber and hand-painted a grim shade of green. #2536 DELUXE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON MASK \$39.95



**THE WEREWOLF!** Horrendously hairy & fearfully fanged! Palpitatingly Painted by Hand, too! Weird & Woolly! Ideal & Inimitable! Perfect for Parties & Halloweening Hosts. Certainly Snarling! #2538 DELUXE WOLFMAN MASK \$39.95



**THE MUMMY!** Latex head-piece shriveled so, your friends will think you're flaking apart! Hand-painted a baneful beige, this spectacular disguise would even scare the morgue attendant! #2531 DELUXE MUMMY MASK \$39.95



**FRANKENSTEIN!** The Monster! King of them all, complete with matted hair and bolts in forehead and two ghastly red scars on his clammy gray hand-painted face. #2542 DELUXE FRANKENSTEIN MASK \$39.95



**THE MUTANT!** The hideous creature that attacked This Island Earth, his huge brain throbbing, pulsating, silver-painted! The man-made monster of the far, foul, future! #2552 DELUXE MUTANT MASK \$39.95



**THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME!** Quasimodo, deformed bell-ringer! Crupled creeping horror! Combines the best terrific aspects of the great film versions of all time! #2548 DELUXE HUNCHBACK MASK \$39.95

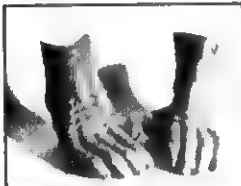


First "underground" fearful folk-hero-monsters of the fab, faded, fadded Fifties! Green & red with yellow bug-eyes! Special LOW PRICE! Order today for #2551 DELUXE MOLE PEOPLE MASK \$25.00

## SPECIALLY DESIGNED HANDS & FEET TO GO WITH MASKS ABOVE



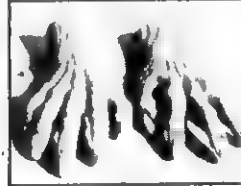
#2543 FRANKENSTEIN HANDS



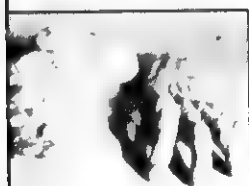
#2551 GORILLA FEET



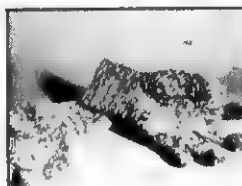
#2550 GORILLA HANDS



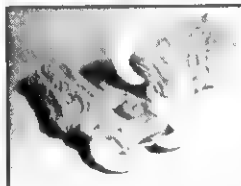
#2533 PHANTOM & MAD DOCTOR HANDS



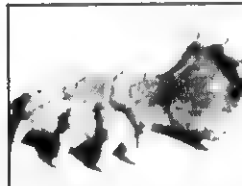
#2535 HUNCHBACK & MR. HYDE HANDS



#2541 MUMMY HANDS



#2553 MUTANT HANDS



#2537 CREATURE HANDS



#2539 WOLFMAN HANDS

## WHAT'S A MONSTER WITHOUT CLAWS?

Fish may gotta swim, but Lagoon Creatures gotta FIN their way through the swampy morass of Life. It's best to do one's Terrific Thing with these spectacular latex rubber pairs of hands, feet, fins, claws & paws, Specially Designed & hand-painted to go with the Whole-Head Monster Masks pictured above. Some of these hands go with more than one mask. Each set is LOW-PRICED at \$19.95 a pair! Order 'em all today!

#2543 LATEX RUBBER FRANKENSTEIN HANDS (1 PAIR) \$19.95

#2551 LATEX RUBBER DELUXE GORILLA FEET (1 PAIR) \$19.95

#2550 LATEX RUBBER GORILLA HANDS (1 PAIR) \$19.95

#2553 PHANTOM OF OPERA, OR MAD DOCTOR HANDS (1 PAIR) \$19.95

#2535 HUNCHBACK, OR MR. HYDE HANDS (1 PAIR) \$19.95

#2541 LATEX RUBBER MUMMY HANDS (1 PAIR) ONLY \$19.95

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#2537 LATEX RUBBER LAGOON CREATURE HANDS (1 PAIR) \$19.95

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#2547 LATEX RUBBER MOLE PEOPLE HANDS (PAIR NOT PICTURED) \$19.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.



# ANIMATED MONSTER HOME MOVIES

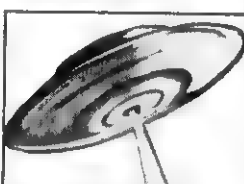
AVAILABLE IN REG 8 AND SUPER 8! 200' REELS!

## 20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH



A spaceship returns from the planet Venus with an unborn specimen of life from the earth's sister planet on-board. When the vehicle crashlands in the sea, the creature's egg floats to shore and the alien hatches. Due to the elements in earth's atmosphere, the beast grows from a height of six inches to sixty feet! It is harmless until attacked by man, at which point it makes its way to Rome and levels the ancient city. There, it ravages a zoo and battles an elephant to the death. Bullets cannot stop the awesome monster, nor can the combined efforts of two full armies! #22029/\$7.99

## EARTH VS THE FLYING SAUCERS



Humanoid beings from a dying world arrive on earth with the intention of taking over. They ask us to turn over our world to them... and when we refuse, the aliens attack. Their death ray makes a shambles of the military of every country on earth Paris, Moscow, and London fall before their mighty onslaught. And when they move on Washington D.C., the genius of one scientist... and his amazing anti-gravity ray... is all that stands between earth and destruction. And the battle rages levels most of Washington's landmarks... but does it destroy the outer space invaders? Order #22028/\$7.99

## MIGHTY JOE YOUNG



A nightclub owner, seeking a unique attraction for his new club, travels to Africa to capture animals, which he will display behind sturdy glass. During the safari, the men discover a giant ape, owned by a young plantation owner. They convince the owner to bring her ape to Hollywood. There, they are a success... until the gorilla breaks loose! #2268/\$7.99

## EQUINOX



A crew of adventuresome souls travel in search of a missing scientist. Their journey carries them to a strange, ethereal castle, the discovery of gigantic footprints, a mysterious, forbidden cave, and an ancient book detailing a terrifying curse. And then comes the most horrifying discovery of all, the finding of an incredible ape-like monster, and his dread master. #2289/\$7.99

## WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH



An Oscar nominee for 'Best Special Effects,' this incredible motion picture tells what it was like when monstrous lizards dominated our world. See cavemen battle for their lives against monster crabs, winged monsters, a giant carnivorous creature, and a long-necked Plesiosaur from the bottom of the ocean. The film ends with birth of moon. #2245/\$7.99

## FULL COLOR DINOSAUR JIGSAW PUZZLES

The Age of Reptiles lives again in these three panoramic, full color dinosaur puzzles. Each has a big 200 pieces and is a large 20"x12" when fully assembled. Hours of fun; great to mount and display!



### TYLOSAUR vs. PTERANODON

The waves of a prehistoric ocean are choppy with death as these great lizards battle it out. Pteranodon was the first winged animal; Tylosaur was the ancient ancestor of our own modern-day Loch Ness Monster. The two were blood enemies, as both fed upon fish from the sea. Magnificent kit! #2677/\$1.39

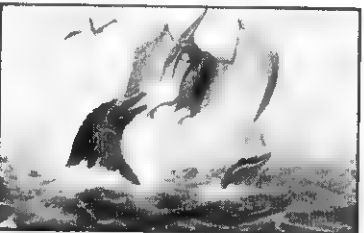
### BRONTOSAUR

This is the big one! All 30 tons of the Brontosaurus are here in this exciting puzzle. The Brontosaurus had to spend most of his time in water for two reasons: It helped support his massive weight, and kept him safe from predators, meat-eating dinosaurs who couldn't swim. Bronto was strictly a vegetarian beast. #2679/\$1.39



### TYRANNOSAUR vs. TRICERATOPS

The earth quakes as these two most famous dinosaurs battle it out to the death. The Tyrannosaurus, King of the Dinosaurs and mightiest of the meat-eaters, and Triceratops, a peaceful vegetarian, are a well-matched pair. The Tyrannosaurus battling with 6' teeth; his companion using 3 sharp ivory horns #2678/\$1.39



## MONSTER HISTORY PAPERBACK

### CINEFANTASTIC: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MONSTERS AND SCIENCE FICTION FILMS!

Cinefantastic is just about the definitive history of the horror and science fiction movie. Between its full-color covers, featuring GODZILLA and BATMAN, you'll find an in-depth study of the world of fantastic films. It's jam-packed with photographs from and of all the greats, and you'll have a wealth of information at your fingertips. From KING KONG to 2001, from KARLOFF to LEE, there is little left uncovered in this impressive 8x10" book. And, it's from the people who gave you HOUSE OF HORRORS, the Hammer film history. Now, available in the United States, we can offer it to you at the low, low price of \$1.98. #21136



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### PAPERBACK BOOKS BY RATHBONE AND ACKERMAN



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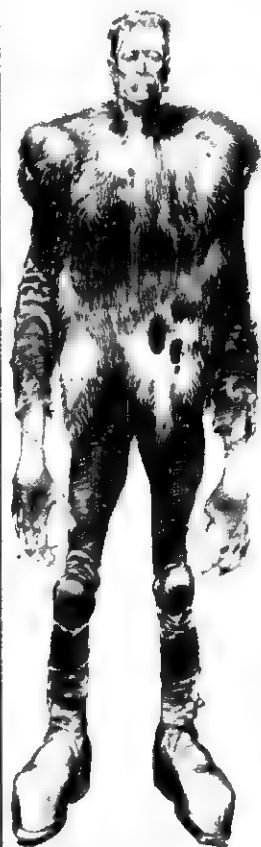
# SENSATIONAL PIN UP POSTERS FOR SALE

If your appetite runs to **GIANT SUPER PIN-UP POSTERS**, then these are your Meat! For a Main Course, try the Gigantic **FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER POSTER** at left, drawn as only the great Jack Davis can. This 6-foot beauty is yours for a mere \$1.50! And what an array of other tidbits to choose from! TV PERSONALITIES! SUPER HEROES! MONSTERS! GODDESSES! All other Posters are 3-1/2 by 2-1/2 feet in size, printed on heavy quality paper and many are in Full Color.

## GIANT LIFE SIZE FRANKENSTEIN PIN-UP

DRAWN BY

*JACK DAVIS*



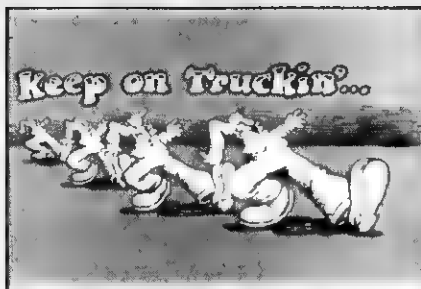
**6  
FEET  
TALL!**

A gigantic, unbelievable wash drawing of the **FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER**. OVER 6 FEET TALL! By America's greatest cartoonist-artist Jack Davis. A masterpiece of reproduction that will startle anyone who hasn't had your picture taken alongside your favorite ghoul; tape it to the inside of your bedroom or den door, put it between someone's bed sheets, or just pin it on the wall. A million dollars worth of value for a low price.

**6 FT FRANKENSTEIN  
Black & White**

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\$1.50

**A FULL 6 FEET - ONLY \$1.50**



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# FULL COLOR MONSTER MOVIES

8mm and SUPER 8mm FILMS BY HARRYHAUSEN IN BW OR COLOR

Now you can own these Regular or Super 8mm home movies, each one an acknowledged masterpiece of the fantasy genre. Created by Ray Harryhausen, the world's greatest special effectsman, these films feature some of the most astounding monsters and scenes of devastation ever filmed. And, if you journey with Jason in search of the Golden Fleece, or with Sinbad to the demonic isle of Colossa, there's the added dimension of color. The colors full and crisp; so much so that you will feel as if you are right in the midst of the action! Each film is a full 200' in length and runs a total of twelve minutes. A complete set of Jason or Sinbad adventures runs close to a full hour!

## THE 4 FILMS OF 7TH VOYAGE OF SINBAD

### CHAPTER ONE "The Cyclops"

Sinbad and his men interrupt their lengthy voyage with a stop on the dangerous Colossa Island. There, they seek food and water. Upon landing, they are met by the evil magician Sokurah who is being chased by an enormous Cyclops. It's an incredible battle between men and monster... until the genie of the lamp intervenes! BW: #22006 / \$7.99 Color: \$15.95 / #22030

### CHAPTER TWO "Strange Voyage"

Sinbad's beloved Princess Parisa is reduced to six inches in height. Only a piece of shell from the egg of the monstrous Colossa bird the Roc can restore her to normal. But the seas back to Colossa are fraught with danger... such as evil winds, maulous sailors... and the ear-piercing Sirens. Will Sinbad's ship survive? BW: \$7.99 / #22007 Color: \$15.95 / #22031

### CHAPTER THREE "Evil Magician"

Sinbad and his men reach Colossa, and scale the craggy peaks to the Roc's nest. There, they do battle with the great two-headed bird, and Sinbad is captured by the monster. If that weren't enough, a living human skeleton is brought to life by Sokurah to menace the adventurous seamen. And there are still surprises galore! BW: \$7.99 / #22008 Color: \$15.95 / #22032

### CHAPTER FOUR "Dragon's Lair"

After returning the princess to her normal size, Sokurah looses his fire-breathing dragon after Sinbad and Parisa. Just as he's about to get them, the Cyclops comes to their rescue. A battle to the death ensues, and the one-eyed creature is beaten. The dragon chases the pair to the sea... where it is a light of fights! BW: \$7.99 / #22009 Color: \$15.95 / #22033

## THE 4 FILMS OF JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

### CHAPTER ONE "Battle With Talos"

Jason and his hearty Argonauts brave incredible peril to find the legendary Golden Fleece. And their first obstacle is an island on which lives the indestructible Man of Bronze known as Talos. Hundreds of feet tall, weapons are useless against the metal monster. Can he be stopped? BW: \$7.99 / #20010 Color: \$15.95 / #22034

### CHAPTER TWO "Triton, Lord of the Deep"

The next impasse is the infamous menace of the Clashing Rocks. These are mountains in the sea that are alive! Jason must pass through them... and faces destruction. Then, as doom nears, the giant God Triton comes to the rescue. And a surprise awaits Jason: in the waters floats a beautiful young girl! BW: \$7.99 / #22011 Color: \$15.95 / #22035

### CHAPTER THREE "Hydra of Hades"

After being captured by the inhabitants of Colchis, land of the Golden Fleece, Jason breaks free. Then, in a diamond and gold studded cave, he finds the Hydra. But guarding it is the Hydra, a seven-headed dragon. It kills one of Jason's men... and then goes after the hero himself! Exciting! BW: \$7.99 / #22012 Color: \$15.95 / #22036

### CHAPTER FOUR "Golden Fleece"

Jason and his men grab the Fleece and run! But their way is barred, first, by a flaming fireball from the sky... and second by an army of killer skeleton warriors. These grew from the teeth of the dead Hydra. And the nine skeletons battle Jason and two men in an incredible finale. Two men die. BW: \$7.99 / #22013 Color: \$15.95 / #22037



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**\$8.95**

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## LONE RANGER JIGSAW PUZZLES

The Lone Ranger and his faithful Indian companion Tonto ride again in a set of three exciting jigsaw puzzles. There are 200 big pieces in these full color kits; each one a different photograph of the Western hero in action.

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A bizarre and very readable philosophy of the Dying & the Undead History & many illos of vampires, and even an interview with Chris Lee penning LUGOSI! #21086 A DREAM OF DRACULA \$1.25

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### LATE, GREAT CREATURE

Fast paced hardcover novel of a Hollywood monster star whose last appearance in a Horror film builds to a macabre climax! LATE GREAT CREATURE \$3.95 #21084

### PREHISTORIC ANIMALS

Mammoth 8-3/4x12 inch hardcover book, illustrated with fantastic full-color paintings of huge lumbering giants and wily weird wonders of the prehistoric past! Fine, Fact-Packed and Fascinating! First published at \$4! #21084 PREHISTORIC ANIMALS \$2.98



# RARE FM BACK ISSUES

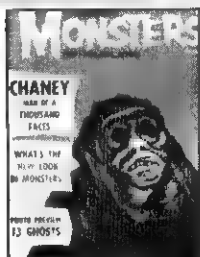
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Once more, you can buy several of the first Famous Monsters ever published. These are the original magazines... not reprints. Dealers are commanding astronomical rates for these! New low prices!

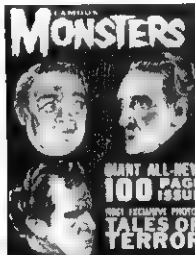
**FAMOUS MONSTERS #7:** The long out-of-print and highly regarded "Mad Labs" article, plus an in-depth Zachary piece. Much more, including a few surprises! \$12.50



**FAMOUS MONSTERS #8:** A special look at the career and films of Lon Chaney Sr., plus a preview of that film wonder, "13 Ghosts." Also, the "new" monster look. \$12.50



**FAMOUS MONSTERS #10:** Incredible "Phantom of the Opera" article highlights this edition, as well as monster news of the year. Plus: Flash Gordon and other sci-fi. \$10.00



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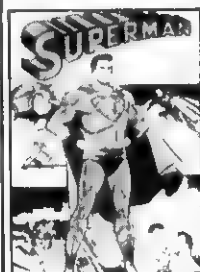


**FAMOUS MONSTERS #20:** Read all about the most famous monster-maker of our day, Ray Harryhausen in "Son of Kong" tale. Plus incredible stories of interest to fans. \$12.50

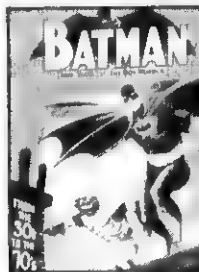
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**WONDER WOMAN.** A beautiful edition featuring her greatest exploits. Book is a large 8-1/2" by 11-1/2". Full color, with commentary by Gloria Steinem on Amazon gal. #2101/\$12.95

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WIND-UP MOTOR INCLUDED  
NO BATTERIES NEEDED



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## IGUANADON #2443

The fiercely-formed IGUANADON over 100 million years ago had terrifying jaws that glistened with several rows of teeth for rowdy rows with other ancient monsters, always growing new teeth as they wore out! Get this scraper to bully the rest! #2443, \$3.50



## DIMETRODON #2444

DIMETRODONS got to be 11 feet long, and flaunted their fins for of all things, heating purposes; to absorb more sunlight! But they weren't timid sunbathers—these were really rough, tough meat-eating lizards! Buy one! See what we mean! Order #2444 DIMETRODON \$3.50



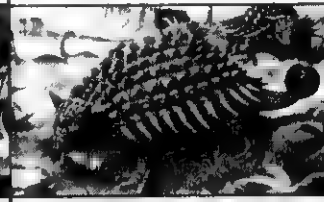
## STEGOSAURUS #2446

An armored dinosaur pouncing across North America, the STEGOSAURUS was often 20 feet long, with arrowhead-shaped spikes down his back and mean nail-like pikes at the tip of his tail! They were vicious fighters, for "meat" vegetarians! Order #2446 STEGOSAURUS \$3.50



## TYRANNOSAURUS #2445

TYRANNOSAURUS REX was the King of Monsters, everyone knows. Now you can set one prowling over your livingroom carpet, attacking and vanquishing everyone in its path! He was usually 47 feet long and nearly 20 feet tall, and devoured practically all animals! #2445 TYRANNOSAURUS \$3.50



## ANKYLOSAURUS #2447

ANKYLOSAURUS! His spiked hide was as hazardous to brush against as scaling the glass-encrusted Great Wall of China! This Herbivorous North American Lizard often grew to a length of 15 feet! When someone says "armored dinosaur," this grubby fellow always comes to mind. Order #2447 ANKYLOSAURUS \$3.50



## STYRAEOSAURUS #2448

A really creepy Ceratopsian, the STYRAEOSAURUS, with his spiked armor-plated head was a terror to all who chanced to cross his path! When the world was younger, this monster prowled across the plains, pastures and forests of Asia & North America! #2448 STYRAEOSAURUS \$3.50



## TRICERATOPS #2449

TRICERATOPS! A fine match for doing battle with the Triceratops at left! They each were about 20 feet long, and armored with sharp bony plates and fighting horns! This and all other kits on this page feature special windup motors to make these monsters lumber & swagger! Order #2449 TRICERATOPS \$3.50

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# Pirates of the Caribbean

# HOBBY KITS

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## HORRIFIC UNDEAD SKELETONS MOVE WITH ZAP ACTION



**FATE OF THE MUTINEERS!**—is quicksand! And a most terrifying fate it is, too! One living pirate skeleton is sinking deeper and deeper into the mire! Can his mate save him? Well, the free walking-skeleton tries, and that's where the ZAP-ACTION horror comes in, as before your startled friends' eyes, the free one yanks his friend's arm from its SOCKET! #2454 FATE OF THE MUTINEERS \$2.00



On the DEAD MAN'S RAFT, one clattering cage of calcium steers the cursed raft down the River Styx to the Land of the Dead! It looks like clear sailing all the way, until from out of the coffin pops up a second skeleton, moving with ZAP-ACTION! The second skeleton SLAMS his dagger into a treasure map! A cursed sign from the Great Beyond to resume the foul quest for blood-tainted Doubloons! This realistic, moving horror kit puts you Right There! Order #2452 DEAD MAN'S RAFT \$3.00



**CONDEMNED TO CHAINS FOREVER** is the eternal curse laid upon this marooned bag of bones, left behind on a small isle with but a barrel of rum and his fair share of some ill-gotten treasure. An ironic punishment! And what's worse, all he has is a cutlass to fend off that hungry alligator who's dead-set on using the pirate skeleton's leg-bone for a tooth-pick! So he SWINGS his cutlass down eternally on the gator's snout! #2453 CONDEMNED TO CHAINS FOREVER \$2.00



**"HOIST HIGH THE JOLLY ROGER!"**—shouts zombie-like CAPTAIN VILLAINY himself! With one hand he holds aloft his Jolly Roger pirate emblem flag, the dread skull & crossbones, as with his other arm, he waves his dueling cutlass in ZAP-ACTION derring do! Not even that mulous & salty skeleton crew will get HIS share of the treasure, you'd better believe! Captain Villainy, you see, heads the whole operation, and orders about his ghostly crew. Order #2451 HOIST HIGH THE JOLLY ROGER! \$1.50



**"DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES!"**—The Great Motto of the bloodthirsty Pirates of the Caribbean in the Salty Sixteenth Century; when the secret burial place of treasure in troves was protected by killing all but one of the men who buried it! Namely the man who did the killing of his mates! One such boney fiend here spends forever and a day re-enacting that evil moment in his life when he murdered his pirate pals, cackling out the name of this great ZAP-ACTION kit. Order #2450 DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES \$1.50

## WEREWOLF NOSE!

### TURN YOURSELF INTO A WOLFMAN!

Now you can own the same unique, high quality latex appliance that was used to turn Lon Chaney Jr. into his monstrous characterization, The Wolfman. Apply to your face with spirit gum (available at most drug stores) or with Creepy Skin paste, advertised below. And, when the hand-painted nose is fixed on your face, apply the gruesome Face Fur, available below. You will be a complete werewolf!



There are two large air-holes in the appliance, for easy breathing. So life-like, you'll scare your friends to death! Become a make-up artist. And, while you're at it, order our fangs, glowing eyes, and other make-up items. You may be the next Westmore. #2666/\$1.39



## CREEPY SKIN

### STICKS ON THE SKIN TO MAKE LUMPS 'N BUMPS

Here's a horrid looking gook to give your skin a new dimension. Sticks by itself without glue; completely realistic. Or, use it to attach other appliances to your face... such as the Werewolf nose. A positively grotesque substance, to scare your family #2668/49c



## FACE FUR

### SELF-ADHESIVE WOLFMAN WOOL FOR HANDS OR FACE



Transform yourself from man to wolfman with this fuzzy flock of face fur, direct from the werewolf's lair. With Creepy Skin and Werewolf nose, the horrid hair will make you the complete lycanthrope. Frighten the daylight out of your friends or people in the street. #2667/59c

## VAMPIRELLA

## PLASTIC HOBBY KIT

### 16 SNAP-TOGETHER PLASTIC PARTS! MOVEABLE ARMS & LEGS!

Here she is! Brought sweeping out of the night, flying directly at your neck exclusively by Warren Publishing! Surely the collector's item of the decade! Our own VAMPIRELLA, star of her own magazine, debutante of Draculon, vamp of the veins and artesian of the arteries! In a limited-supply collector's plastic hobby kit that's becoming more rare by the hour! And the hour is bewitching, as vivacious VAMPIRELLA stands assembled before you on your hobby shelf! She has this special added attraction: moveable arms and legs, and a pet black bat to perch on her shoulder! She's a pert, pretty miss, and stands over 5" tall! She's definitely a unique buy, and a certain contrast to your other hobby kits. VAMPIRELLA!—Princess of Draculon! VAMPIRELLA! She hobnobs with Dracula Himself! VAMPIRELLA! She travels the world with Dr. van Helsing in search of justice for herself, and all others WHO CRAVE TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD! Yes, she's all that and MORE! She's now a super collector's item hobby kit manufactured by YOUR POPULAR DEMAND! Don't hesitate! The supply is definitely limited! Order as many VAMPIRELLA kits as you can NOW! #2439 VAMPIRELLA KIT \$2.00

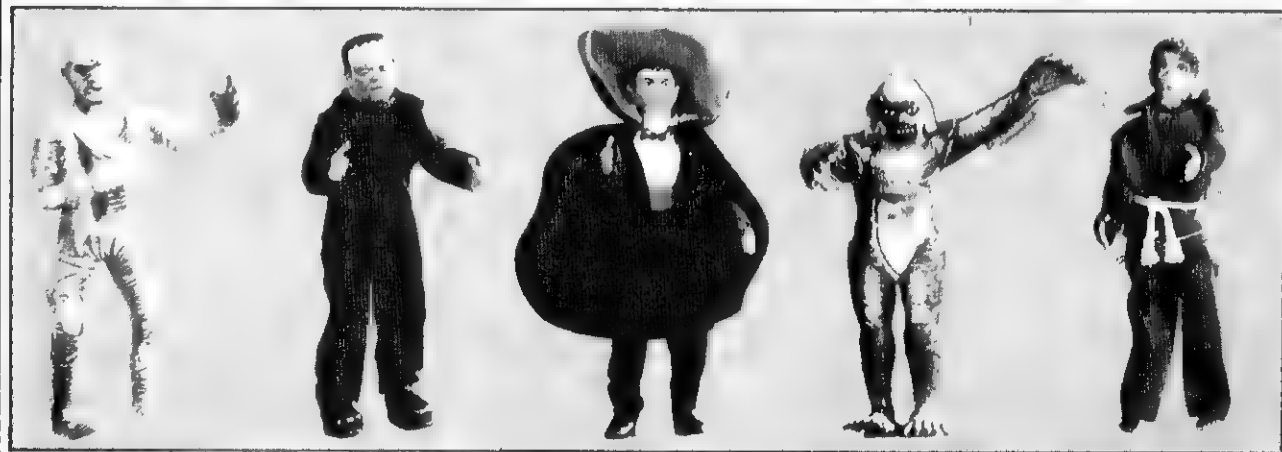
## SHE'S FANG-TASTIC!



# BENDABLE MONSTER FIGURES

## 8" TALL! ALL PLASTIC! CLOTHES MADE OF CLOTH!

You asked for them, and here they are! A collection of all-plastic figures to bend and pose in any position. Here are Universal Pictures' greatest monsters, from Dracula to Frankenstein; from the Mummy to the Creature from the Black Lagoon. Use them as models from which to draw your own monstrous comic strips... or use them as stop-motion models and make your own animated monster films. Or just pose 'em and decorate your room!



### THE MUMMY

Many thousand years ago, a great Prince of Egypt was buried alive. His mission: To guard the great treasures of the kingdom. Now, from the ancient sarcophagi of ages-past comes Kharis, the killer mummy. And he looks to destroy the expedition that has defiled his final resting place. Made in the image of Chaney. #2493/\$2.79

### FRANKENSTEIN

Mary Shelley's immortal creation lives again as an exciting bendable doll! Here is the monster created by Dr. Frankenstein. Built from the rotted remains of decayed corpses, this green-hued gromummy. And he looks to destroy the expedition that has defiled his final resting place. Made in the image of Boris Karloff. #2494/\$2.79

### DRACULA

The sun has set, and the night casts its shadows over the land. Time it is for the vicious vampire known as Count Dracula to rise from the grave. Carefully... silently... he goes about his gruesome work, searching for victims from whom to drink fresh blood. A fantastic figurine, cast in the likeness of Bela Lugosi. #2495/\$2.79

### THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

An archaeological expedition into the depths of the Amazon jungle locates one of the most amazing creatures in history! He's a livid green, his scale-encrusted body half-man, half-fish. He's the being of super-human strength, from the Black Lagoon! #2497/\$2.79

### THE WOLFMAN

Under the driving rays of the full moon he prowls, his vile fangs gleaming in the night light. From town to town he runs, praying upon the innocents he finds therein. For this is the Wolfman, the animal in human form... from whom no one is safe! Put him against Frankenstein! In the image of Lon Chaney Jr. #2496/\$2.79

# RARE! MONSTER TAPE RECORDINGS

Return with us now to the days when classic radio horror dominated the airwaves. A time of creaking doors... and unseen terrors. Relive the Suspense radio program in this exciting four-hour long set of tape cassettes featuring actual recordings of old radio programs. And starring in these vintage broadcasts are talents such as Orson Wells, Robert Taylor, and Vincent Price. The entire set sells for \$19.95... expensive, but well worth the price. Available in limited edition, so order today! #2342



## DRACULA

DRACULA. Starring Orson Wells, is a true masterpiece. This is the feature presentation of an old-time radio broadcast... Bram Stoker's original (and timeless) vampire classic DRACULA. And starring in this hour-long tape recording is one of the great actors of all-time, the immortal Orson Wells. Wells has always had a proclivity towards the unique and bizarre. His WAR OF THE WORLDS program, aired some years after this recording was made, scared the daylight out of millions of Americans; and DRACULA is no less frightening. Wells himself portrays the blood-thirsting Count. His performance is amazing. Wells' understanding of the tortured soul of Dracula adds a dimension to the character that has been unrealized by other monster actors. Accompanying Wells in this extravaganza are the unmatched talents of his Mercury Theatre. This was a company of actors who went to work with Wells in WAR OF THE WORLDS and the motion picture CITIZEN KANE. As for this recording, it recounts the tale of Jonathan Harker who, hired by Dracula to work in his castle, journeys to Transylvania and is there transformed, by the Count, into one of the Undead. It then falls upon Dr. Van Helsing, a friend of the young man, to track down the dread demon Dracula and destroy him. But there are many impediments... such as the vampire's Herculean strength... not to mention his seductive female-vampire accomplices. The scene wherein Dracula summons forth these, and other children of the night, has to be heard to be believed. Simply awesome!



## THE BIRDS and THREE SKELETON QUAY

THE BIRDS, Starring John Dehner & THREE SKELETON QUAY. Starring Vincent Price, is a superb double-bill in our monster radio-gallery. THE BIRDS is a half-hour retelling of the classic short story that became the basis for the Alfred Hitchcock film. And it is the story of a man trapped in an English countryside home by an ever-growing flock of deadly killer-birds. THREE SKELETON QUAY relates a tale of rats, tens of thousands of the fanged creatures. The setting is a lighthouse manned by three keepers... men who watch in horror as the furry devils swarm onto their island from the sea. And once on the small quay, the creatures climb up the light shaft in search of... meat! This is a story of intense suspense that builds to an unforgettable climax. Vincent Price stars in this program from the thirties. Can man survive this incredibly diabolical onslaught of the beasts, bird and rat? Enough to make you lose faith in nature!

## DONOVAN'S BRAIN

DONOVAN'S BRAIN, Starring Orson Wells, recreates the strange and classic tale of a ruthless financier who stops at nothing to get what he wants. And when he dies, he has his brain kept alive in a tank... from which point he directs thought waves, thus controlling people's minds. Originally a novel by Curt Siodmak, and later a film of the same name, this exciting science fiction tale features Orson Wells as Donovan, with the all-star Mercury cast behind him. As with DRACULA, this is one of the few shows in the history of the Suspense radio program that was honored with a full hour of air time. A gripping broadcast!

## THE LIFEBOAT MUTINY and THE HOUSE IN CYPRESS CANYON

THE LIFEBOAT MUTINY is a much over-looked, highly original science fiction tale about a computer. But not your ordinary computer: This one was built by a race of lizard monsters called the Dromes. And the computer was to be used against the barbarian Huggenns, creatures living on another planet. But the alien races have since died off... and the computer, deadly as ever, with its alien mentality, lives on. HOUSE IN CYPRESS CANYON, starring Robert Taylor, is considered the greatest single moment of horror in radio history. From the mid-forties, this terror-tale tells of a house in suburban Los Angeles... a house in whose closet lurks the most unimaginable monster of all-time. And it's set during the Christmas season, a time that makes the horror even more severe. Both stories are a half-hour of suspense!

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

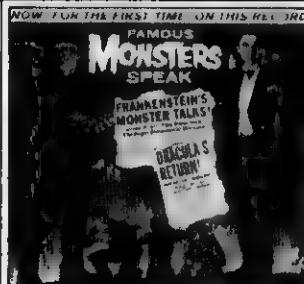


# MONSTERIFIC LP RECORD ALBUMS!

## 8 EVIL EDGAR ALAN POE RECORDS IN A! SHIVERIN' SERIES!

THIS IS THE GREATEST HORROR RECORD SERIES OF ALL TIME. Talented actors Martin Donegan and Ugo Toppo share the honors and glory of this monumental project THE RECORDING OF THE COMPLETE STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE! The project is still going on, and already there are 8 masterful records in six single albums and one double album; each read with skill, precision, and a sure sense of nerve-numbing terror. Each reading is so well done, that the horrible word pictures of Poe's diseased psyche seem to materialize before your eyes; rotting castles, scurrying rat-things, the walking-dead in their pale shrouds seem to vibrate in the air as the words of the world's greatest macabre storyteller ripple the very ether!

- #1** THE BLACK CAT • THE SPHINX • IMP OF THE PERVERSE  
Read by Martin Donegan. Tales of a vindictive cat's ghost, an odd-sized monster, and a study in madness. #2218 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #1 \$4.49
- #2** THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER  
Poe's greatest tale, read complete by Martin Donegan. The first creeping story of Southern decadence & evil. #2319 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #2 \$4.49
- #3** MORELLA • SHADOW: A PARABLE • THE OBLONG BOX  
The spirit of Shadows arrives, and a Weird coffin. #2320 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #3— \$4.49
- #4** A DESCENT INTO THE MAELSTROM  
Read by Ugo Toppo with relish: you are dragged into a whirlpool with many things, long-dead a-swirling! #2321 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #4— \$4.49
- #5** DOUBLE SET THE GOLD BUG • SELECTED POEMS  
Read by Martin Donegan, Poe's Complete short novel of fiendish haunted treasure is stunning! And the poems include Spirits of the Dead & Conqueror Worm! #2322 SHORT STORIES OF POE, #5 \$9.49
- #6** BERNICE • SILENCE: A FABLE • CASK OF AMONTILLADO  
A man fears his wife's teeth, a demon unfolds a world of unspoken dread, & deathly masonry #2323 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #6 \$4.49
- #7** TELL-TALE HEART • MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH  
And two others, read by Martin Donegan. The Oval Portrait and Metzengerstein. 4 of the best! #2324 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #7— \$4.49

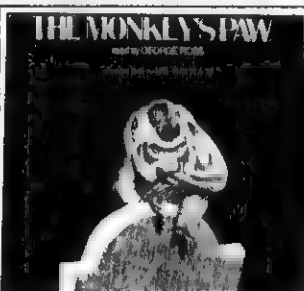


50 minutes of sheer terror, brought to you by the editors of Famous Monsters magazine! Hear the human vampire. A collector's item! Play it as you re-read the last 100 issues of FM; as well as when you read the NEXT 100 issues of FM! Get a Barnabas poster, too! #2301 FAMOUS MONSTERS SPEAK \$2.98

**FREE**

FULL-COLOR PORTRAIT OF BARNABAS COLLINS

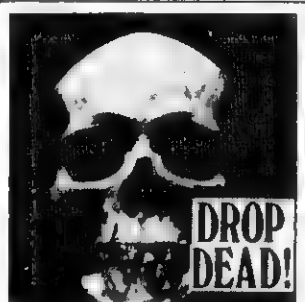
With every order of FAMOUS MONSTERS SPEAK!!



A classic tale of the supernatural about a magical talisman with a terrifying history, 3 awesome wishes, and a chilling conclusion! This is the story that has inspired hundreds of imitations in books, films & comic books. Now you can thrill to the genuine original! #2302 THE MONKEY'S PAW \$4.49



Famous ghost and horror stories read by Nelson Olmstead, famous radio terror voice! Tales by Charles Dickens & Ambrose Bierce, namely "Owl Creek Bridge" & "The Signal Man." Also, R.L. Stevenson's "The Body Snatchers," & O'Brien's "Which Was It?" #2311 SLEEP NO MORE! \$4.98



When radio was king in the late 30's and early 40's, America was scared out of its wits by Arch Oboler's "Lights Out." A sampling of some of the best! Features the legendary tale of the Chicken Heart that devoured Earth! Plus others. Truly terrifying! #2308 DROP DEAD! \$5.98



A wild Spike Jones album featuring Dracula, Vampire and the mad doctor in Teenage Brain Surgeon plus others to drive you hilariously mad! This is a true collector's item, and a rare and valuable find! Classic! #2310 SPIKE JONES IN STEREO \$6.25



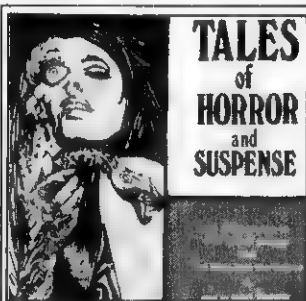
The fantastic adventures adapted from the original Motion Picture Classic! The most famous ape of all time atop the Empire State Building! Done to taste in the Grand Style of 1930's radio melodrama, following the exact plot of this great monster classic! #2309 KING KONG \$1.98



Music of monsters captured on a waxen disc. Eric's Operation of Satanic sonatas & diabolic dirges. Sounds to ice your spine & shudder by in the cold-sweat moments of the witching hour. Created by Langdon! #2325 PHANTOM OF THE ORGAN \$6.95



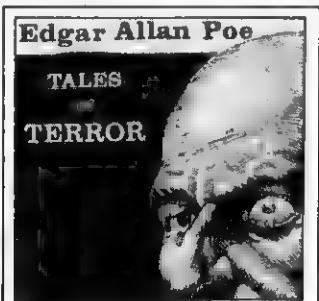
A deluxe 2-record LP of the Actual Original Orson Welles broadcast that sent shock-waves through America in 1938. Rare moments recaptured of panic & madness in the demonic onslaught of Martian Octopus Creatures that Hallowed Eve! #2313, WAR OF THE WORLDS, \$6.98



Horror tales written by the great Ambrose Bierce! "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and "The Man and The Snake" claimed by some to be the most grisly horror tales "Bitter Bierce" penned before his mysterious disappearance! #2316 TALES OF HORROR & SUSPENSE #1 \$4.98



Dramatic readings of two fantastic terror tales by Ambrose Bierce! "The Boarded Window" and "The Affair at Coulter's Notch!" Both stories are set in the sultry Satanic Civil War days, penned by this American Literary giant who topped even Poe! #2317 TALES OF HORROR & SUSPENSE #2 \$4.98



Unending terror by the master, Edgar Allan Poe. Narrated by the renowned radio voice of Nelson Olmstead. Six yarns: "Pd & Pendulum," "Cask of Amontillado," "House of Usher," "Masque of Red Death," "Strange Case of M. Valdemar," & "Tell-Tale Heart." #2315 TALES OF TERROR \$5.98

# FANTASTICAL LP RECORD ALBUMS!



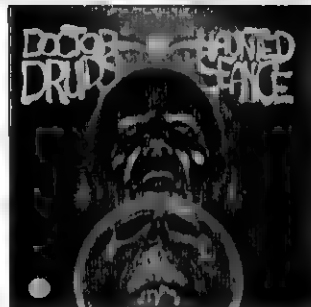
Remember the 1960's and HIGH CAMP in Super Heroes? Well, we've managed to get a special limited supply of this rare comedy record, a Rock-Super-Hero Suite, suited for the strictly-straight-jacket set! Lots (and acres & parking spaces) of laughs! #2337 COMIC BOOK HEROES \$5.98



BELA LUGOSI in a SUSPENSE radio show from the 1940's, complete version A definite must for fanatical Lugosi buffs (all legions of you!) as it has a special spoken biographical portrait by Bela's own SON BELA LUGOSI, JUNIOR! Collector's Item, this! #2336 SUSPENSE/LUGOSI \$6.95



Sit back and relax to sounds of the howling wind, rattling chains, scraping fingernails on the insides of coffins, maniacal laughter, and all the other sweetly sweet sounds of a haunted house! Great fun for parties. #2341 SOUNDS TO MAKE YOU SHIVER! \$4.98



Put on your own seance! Put on your friends! Want to be a medium medium, and hoax folks with a spookshow? This record by Hollywood magician and monster mask master Verne Langdon shows you how! Fiendish fun! #2338 DR DRUID'S HAUNTED SEANCE \$4.49



Two 1940 radio programs, The Oyster Diving episode, and the Black Jacket Episode, wherein Little Annie, and Sandy, and good ol' Ovaltine win out against the death-dealing evil crooks! And she had the first of all ARF-ro hairdos, too! Believe it! #2327 LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE \$5.95



The Celebrated Case of the Firebug Murders Villain is Hotfoot, who boasts "That's the end of Tracy, boys! We won't hear of him again!" Hal Even YOU should know better than that, Hotfoot, you sulfurous heel! Actual old-time radio show. #2332 DICK TRACY \$6.95



VOLUME ONE of two Jack Benny crawls out of his vault to help you re-live (or maybe live for the first time) THE SHADOW, THE LONE RANGER, MA PERKINS, and hilarious FRED ALLEN bits. A musty nostalgic Must! #2339 GREAT MOMENTS IN RADIO VOL. 1 \$3.98



VOLUME TWO of two Original broadcasts of GANGBUSTERS, TERRY AND THE PIRATES, BING CROSBY, and on the spot coverage of the Dempsey-Tunney fight, plus more! A fine entertainment package for all! #2340 GREAT MOMENTS IN RADIO VOL. 2 \$3.98



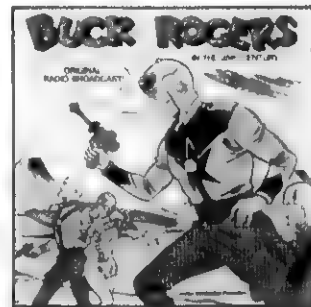
Here's 2 complete radio shows. The Masked Man and trusty Tonto help a meek bank accountant beat a barrellful of bank embezzlers, and then protect the Telegraph Company from the wild Indians. Great action, sound effects, ancient commercials! #2330 LONE RANGER \$6.95



Two full radio adventures from 1948! Cap retrieves jewels of the Queen of Sheba and his Secret Squadron fights a lost-landful of cavemen and prehistoric monsters! The old breakfast drink commercials alone are worth the price of the record. #2331 CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT \$6.95



Superman's complete origin story, from old Krypton all the way to the Daily Planet building. Hear him go whoosh through the unpolluted nostalgic air, and help the War Effort by fighting the vile and evil railroad saboteur. Good ol' radio chills, thud & blunder. #2328 SUPERMAN \$6.95



Futuristic Nostalgia, this! Buck Rogers and his gal, Wilma Deering in the 25th Century, as they fight Black Bart, the arch-villain from Mars, and monkey around with a super-scientific "Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator!" Learn that space ships didn't happen till the 24th Century! Wow! #2329 \$6.95



THE MALTESE FALCON was a jinxed statuette that brought death to thousands, and riches to Dashiell Hammett, and fame to Bogey! Also Bogey in another Hammett yarn, "Love's Lovely Counterfeit." Two super Radio Adaptations from the 1940's. #2334 MALTESE FALCON \$6.95



BORIS KARLOFF! In the greatest evil comedy of all time, Arsenic & Old Lace. Bela Lugosi shines darkly in The Dr. Prescribes Death, a fiendish melodrama, too! A superb bargain MUST for collectors of horror and horrific humor. #2335 ARSENIC AND OLD LACE \$6.95




"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" Better believe that Lamont (THE SHADOW) Cranston does, as he takes on a whole coven of evil wizards in the radio adventure, "The Ears of Pan!" A masterpiece of nostalgic 1940's gothic mystery-horror! #2326 THE SHADOW \$6.95



This century's greatest and most-revered super actor, Orson Welles, as THE SHADOW! Telepathically searching down foul diamond thieves who plunder and prey on helpless naves. Aided only by Margo Lane & a weird Witch Doctor! #2333 ORSON WELLES/SHADOW \$6.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.



HIDE AND SEEK IN THE  
CITY OF THE DEAD? TAG  
AMONG THE AZTEC TOMBS? OR A  
GAME FAR MORE GRAVE FOR OUR  
TWO FUGITIVES FACING A GHOSTLY  
PROCESSION OF THE...

# BLOOD BROTHERS!

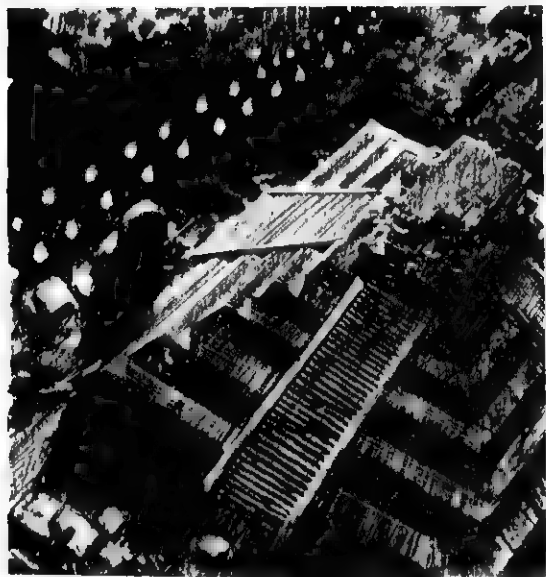
GOVERNMENT  
TROOPS? WE ARE  
**DEADMEN MIGUEL!**

NO YOU FOOL--  
THEY ARE ONLY  
**MONKS!**

WE CAN ESCAPE BEFORE  
THEY RETURN!

HMMM...  
WHY DO THE HOLY  
MEN *HIDE* LIKE  
HEATHEN *THIEVES*?

WE SHALL  
FOLLOW THEM,  
**SANCHO!**







THE ANSWER COMES, WITH THE SOFT SOUND OF SANDALS ON STONE, SICKENING SOUNDS...



A YOUNG MONK RUNS OUT INTO THE CLEARING AS IF PURSUED BY DEATH ITSELF!





YOU WILL *NOT* BE KILLING ANYONE, MY FRIEND-- LEAST OF ALL, POOR *SANCHO!*

HE IS DEAD!

AND MY RIBS *BLEED!* WHY DID YOU WAIT SO LONG TO STOP HIM?



I AM GOING-- *NOW!* IF YOU WISH TO JOIN ME-- COME!

I WILL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT, *SANCHO*-- THIS MONK'S *WEAPON* INTERESTS ME!

POCKETING THE STRANGE WEAPON, MIGUEL FOLLOWS HIS WOUNDED LIEUTENANT TO A SMALL, SLEEPING VILLAGE...



SO MY HUSBAND, YOU AND EL LEADER BLEW *ANOTHER* REVOLUTION!

SHUT UP CONSUELA!

*OUCH!* EASY WOMAN!



YOU LAUGH, WOMAN-- BUT SOON I SHALL *DEFEAT* OUR OPPRESSORS WITH THEIR OWN WEAPON-- *GOLD!*



GOLD?!



SI! WITH PESOS  
WE BUY GUNS,  
BULLETS...

THIS FOOL'S  
GOLD HE PROMISES  
WILL PUT YOU BEFORE  
A FIRING SQUAD!



WOMAN, YOU SEEM  
TO KNOW SO MUCH--WHO  
ARE THE HOODED MONKS  
WHO PROWL THE JUNGLES  
AT NIGHT?



WHAT DO YOU  
WANT WITH THE  
BROTHERS OF  
DOOM?

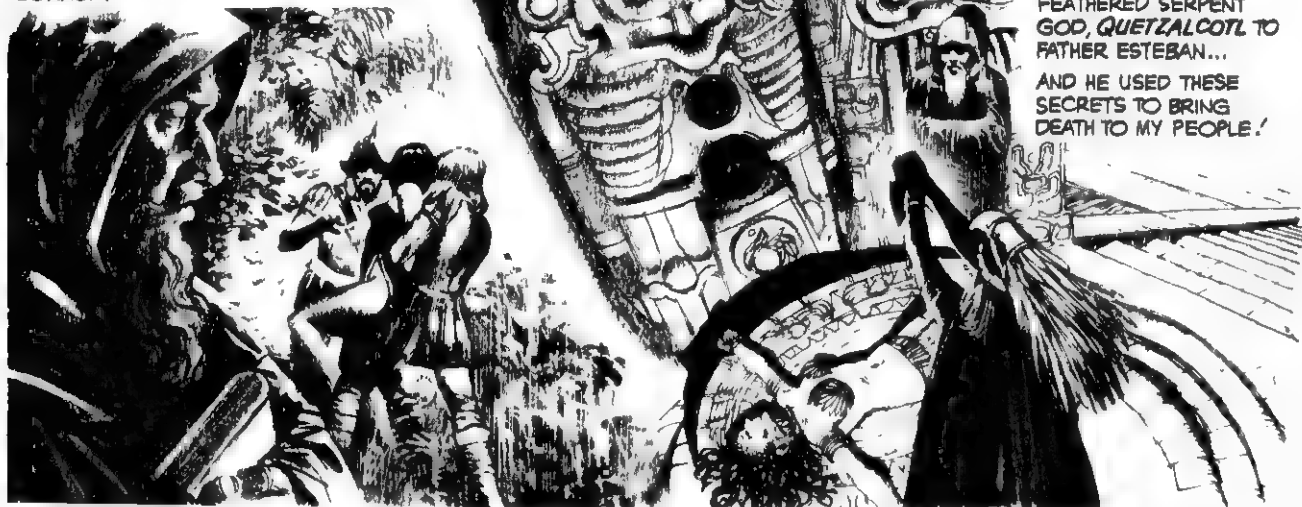
JUST  
ANSWER HIM,  
WOMAN!

BEWARE MIGUEL!  
FATHER ESTEBAN  
FOUNDED THEIR  
ORDER!

MANY YEARS GONE, FATHERS  
OF MY BLOOD SAT IN COUNSEL  
WITH THE GREAT MONTEZUMA...

BEFORE THE WHITE MEN FROM THE SEA  
CAME TO PLUNDER OUR LAND FATHER  
ESTEBAN CAME--NOT FOR GOLD--  
BUT FOR KNOWLEDGE...

AND SOON THAT KNOWLEDGE BECAME  
CORRUPT.



OUR PRIESTS REVEALED  
THE LIFE-GIVING  
RITUALS OF THE  
FEATHERED SERPENT  
GOD, QUETZALCOATL TO  
FATHER ESTEBAN...

AND HE USED THESE  
SECRETS TO BRING  
DEATH TO MY PEOPLE!

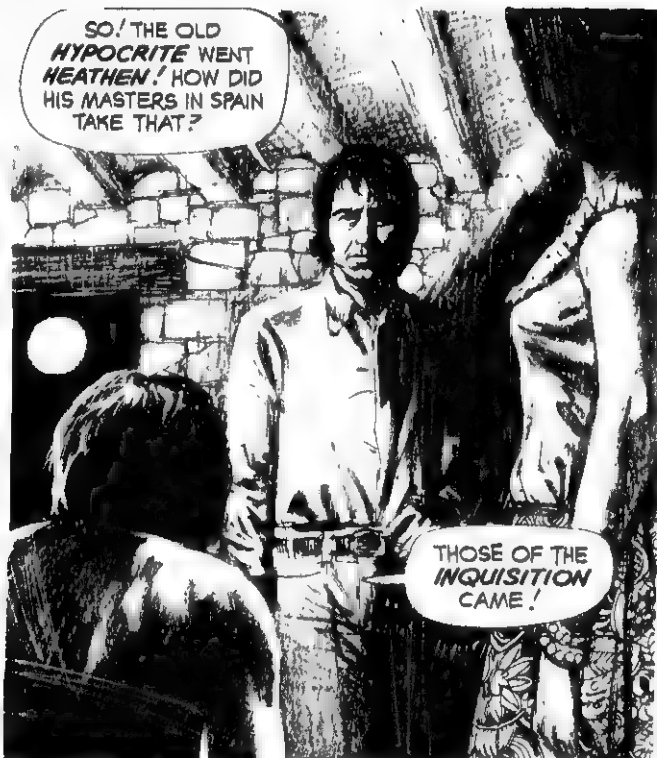


FATHER ESTEBAN BUILT A MAD MONUMENT TO HIMSELF--  
USING MY PEOPLE'S SWEAT AND BLOOD! MANY DIED  
AS THE TEMPLE NEARED COMPLETION...

HE CREATED THE **BROTHERS OF DOOM!**  
THEY PREACHED THE OLD WORDS OF THE **VANISHED**  
ONES!



SO! THE OLD  
**HYPOCRITE** WENT  
**HEATHEN!** HOW DID  
HIS MASTERS IN SPAIN  
TAKE THAT?



THOSE OF THE  
**INQUISITION**  
CAME!

THEY WERE **EVIL** MEN... BUT  
SOON THEY **VANISHED** IN THE  
NIGHT!

THE BROTHERS **SEALED**  
THE DOORS TO THEIR TEMPLE...  
AND FROM THAT TIME ON, THEY  
SPOKE WITH NO ONE!



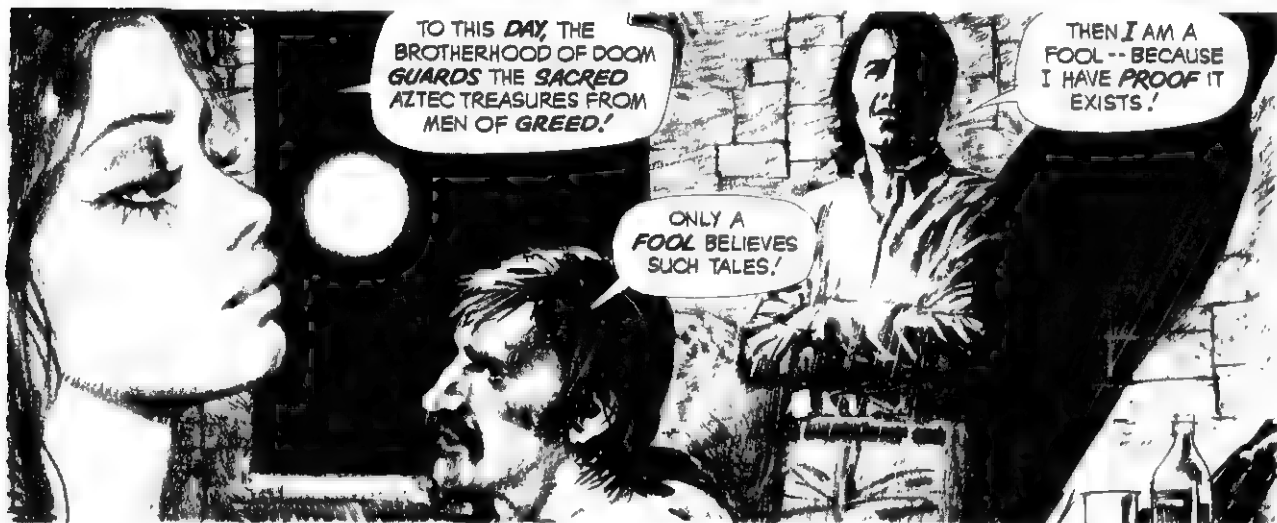
FATHER ESTEBAN DIED, AND HIS PEOPLE **MOURNED** HIM AS THEY  
WOULD A GOD...



TO THIS DAY, THE  
BROTHERHOOD OF DOOM  
**GUARDS** THE **SACRED**  
AZTEC TREASURES FROM  
MEN OF GREED!

ONLY A  
**FOOL** BELIEVES  
SUCH TALES!

THEN I AM A  
FOOL -- BECAUSE  
I HAVE **PROOF** IT  
EXISTS!





THIS EBON  
KNIFE!!!

ONCE SWARTHY SKINNED  
CRAFTSMEN HEWED THE  
BLACK VOLCANIC GLASS  
FOR AN EDGE KEEN  
ENOUGH TO REND *HUMAN  
FLESH!*  
FOR THIS DIVINE BLADE,  
THIS KNIFE OF OBSIDIAN,  
FIT ONLY FOR AN  
OBSCENE RITE, THEY  
FASHIONED A HILT IN THE  
IMAGE OF A SQUAT,  
DEFORMED DEMI-GOD,  
WHO LAUGHS ETERNALLY..  
PERHAPS AT THE VERY  
MORTALS WHO CAST HIS  
UGLY LIKENESS IN  
PRECIOUS, *MOLTEN  
GOLD!*



MIGUEL! WHAT  
EVIL HAVE YOU  
DONE?

STRANGE  
WEAPONS FOR  
YOUR INNOCENT  
MONKS!

BUT AN *ANTIQUE*  
WE CAN TRADE FOR  
A GUN!



STÚPIDO!  
THAT IS WHY I,  
*MIGUEL*, SHALL BE  
EL PRESIDENTE! NOT  
*ONE* GUN SHALL WE  
HAVE -- BUT *MANY!*



DID THE AZTECS HAVE ONLY  
ONE SUCH GOLDEN KNIFE?  
*NO!* AND WE SHALL FIND  
MORE *GOLD* SUCH AS THIS!

SOON I SHALL BE  
*RICH*-- WITH OUR  
PRETTY CONSUELA'S  
HELP!

*NO!*  
THE OLD GODS  
WILL *PUNISH*...



SLAP!

YOU WILL TELL ME  
ALL I MUST KNOW TO  
FIND THIS GOLD!  
*NOW!*

UUUUH!

CONSUELA SPEAKS, HESITATINGLY AT FIRST, REVEALING ALL SHE KNOWS OF THE BROTHERHOOD, AND SO -- THE NEXT MORNING, A "NEW" MIGUEL STANDS BEFORE THE DREADED **GATES OF DOOM**.

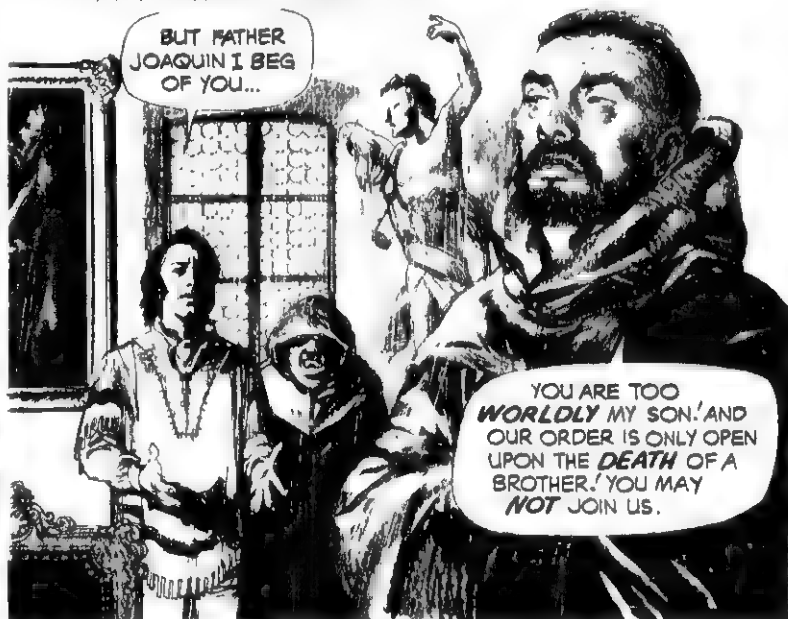
HE IS ADMITTED TO THE TEMPLE AND LED THROUGH CORRIDORS RICH WITH ANCIENT ARTIFACTS...



A DEATH? WAIT -- THE MAN I KILLED...



I HAD A **VISION**, OF A YOUNG MONK, WHOSE WHITE HOOD COVERED A **DEATH'S HEAD**. SURELY IT IS A SIGN?



BUT FATHER JOAQUIN I BEG OF YOU...

YOU ARE TOO **WORLDLY** MY SON. AND OUR ORDER IS ONLY OPEN UPON THE **DEATH** OF A BROTHER. YOU MAY **NOT** JOIN US.



YES, THERE HAS BEEN SUCH AN... ACCIDENT...

PERHAPS THE **ONE WHO KNOWS ALL** HAS CHOSEN YOU AS A REPLACEMENT!

... DEEP WITHIN THE **MOLDERING** MONASTERY, WAS A **MUSEUM**, WHERE THE **VICTORIOUS** BROTHERHOOD PRESERVED ITS TROPHIES OF A VANQUISHED **PAGANISM**!

ON THIS ALTAR, THEY PLACED THE BLEEDING, STILL-BEATING HEARTS OF THE SACRIFICIAL VICTIMS --

AS AN OFFERING TO OUR **GODS**!

ONLY **WORTHLESS** CURIOS OF WOOD AND STONE!

YET THE **GOLD MUST** BE HERE... SOMEPLACE!

GOOD LORD!!



THINK WELL MY SON, BEFORE JOINING US... **FATHER ESTEBAN** COMMANDED THAT ONCE A MAN ENTER THE **BROTHERHOOD OF DOOM** HE SHALL NOT LEAVE US **ALIVE**!





NEVER HAD A MAN WILLINGLY **PLEADED**  
FOR A MORE **PAINFUL** LIFE ...



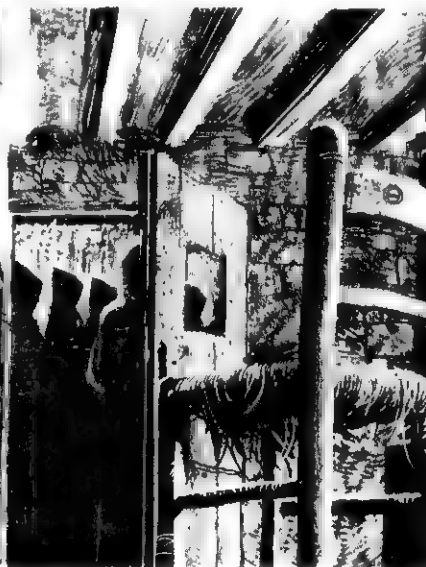
...NEVER HAD A MAN TOILED AS HARD  
FOR A REWARD THAT SEEMINGLY  
NEVER WOULD COME ..



AT EVENING PRAYERS...



YET HIS DAYS OF FALSE  
PIETY GO UNREWARDED;  
WITH THE WAXING OF THE  
MOON, HE HEARS THE  
SOFT SHUFFLE OF  
SANDALS ...



FUTILE UNTIL THE EVE OF THE MOON'S FULLNESS...



WITH DAYBREAK, MIGUEL INTENSIFIES  
HIS EFFORTS TO APPEAR A MARTYR  
TO THEIR GOD!



AT LAST!

THAT NIGHT...

I AM A FOOL! OF  
COURSE THE TREASURE  
IS NOT IN THE MONASTERY.  
-- IT IS *HERE* IN THE CITY  
OF THE DEAD ONES!

THE PUZZLING  
PROCESSION  
FOLLOWS THE  
ANCIENT JUNGLE  
PATHWAY TO...

HERE A THOUSAND  
AZTECS ONCE WORSHIPED  
THE BLOOD THIRSTING GOD,  
QUETZALCOATL.

ALMOST A NATURAL  
CATHEDRAL, IS IT  
NOT?

HERE I WILL  
TRAIN MY  
GUERRILLA  
FORCES!

A CAVE,  
CONCEALED BY A  
BALANCED STONE SLAB.  
THAT IS HOW THEY  
VANISHED SO EASILY!

OVER 400  
YEARS AGO, FATHER  
ESTEBAN WAS TAKEN  
BENEATH THIS ALTAR  
BY THE HIGH  
PRIESTS...

HE VOWED  
ETERNAL PROTECTION  
FOR THEIR TRUST...

SLOWLY MIGUEL SHUFFLES THROUGH THE MAZE OF CAVES-- FINALLY ENTERING THE DUSTY HALL OF ROYAL MUMMIES

KINGS WITH GOLDEN DEATH MASKS!

AND THE CLEVER INQUISITIONERS WHO TRIED TO CONDEMN ESTEBAN TO THE FLAMES. THEY DIED SLOWLY... HORRIBLY!!

AND THIS IS THE CHAMBER OF OFFERINGS!

BREAST PLATES OF GOLD! JADE! AND A THOUSAND GEMS!

WEALTH, POWER! YOU FOOLS... ENOUGH TO RULE THE WORLD!

I HAVE COME TO LEAD YOU!

POWER IS IN THE WAYS OF THE OLD ONES!

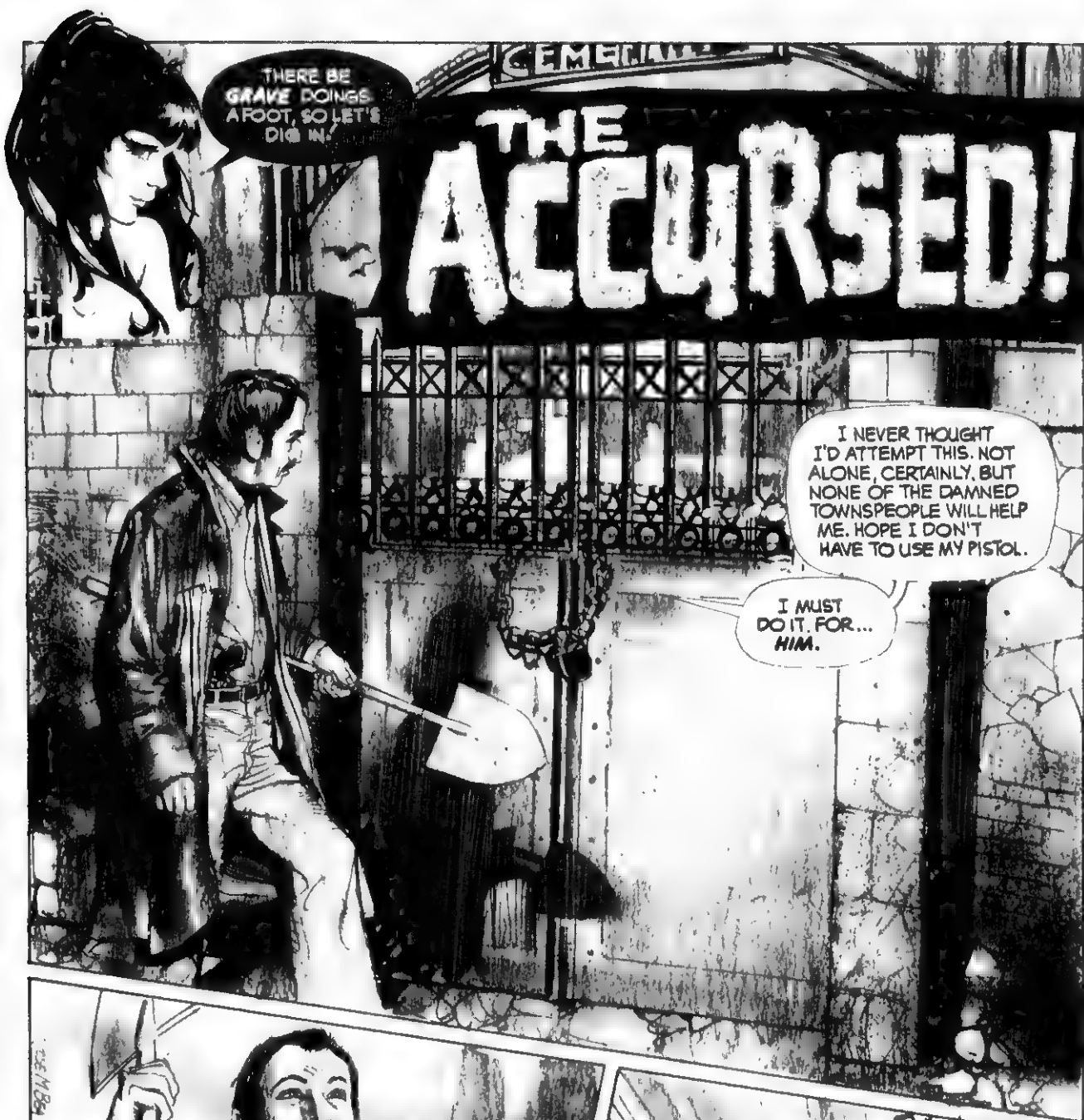
AS FOR YOU, MORTAL-- YOU ARE TO REPLACE THE BROTHER YOU CALLOUSLY KILLED...

A BROTHER DESTINED TO FEED THE GODS!

POOR MIGUEL... BEFORE WE CUT OUT TO MY NEXT PALPITATING PLOT, THE BROTHERHOOD SEEMS TO HAVE A VACANCY --ANY VOLUNTEERS? REMEMBER THE ONLY PREREQUISITE FOR THE JOB IS A LOT OF HEART!

AARRGGGIIII!!





A MILLION CORPSE-EYES FASTEN UPON HIM. A WIND BLOWS UP, MOCKING HIM WITH MIDNIGHT CHILL. UNNUMBERED TOMBSTONES FACE HIM ACCUSINGLY. THIS IS A PLACE OF DEATH. WHAT RIGHT HAS HE TO BE HERE?

PULLING THE COLLAR OF HIS COAT TIGHTER, TRASK INFILTRATES THE UNMOVING SEA OF ANCIENT DEATH, GLANCING CAUTIOUSLY ABOUT.

NEVER FELT SO ALONE. IT BEGINS NOW.

WOULDN'T DO THIS BUT FOR ONE MAN. GOD, IT'S COLD.

HE SENSES THE HORROR BEFORE SEEING IT, PASSING UNDER A GROUP OF GHOST-TREES. A SLAVERING, UNHOLY STALKER OF THE NIGHT.

HE RECOGNIZES THE DISTORTED FEATURES OF GREY ARKHAM...SORCERER! AND THE BEAST READIES TO SPRING...

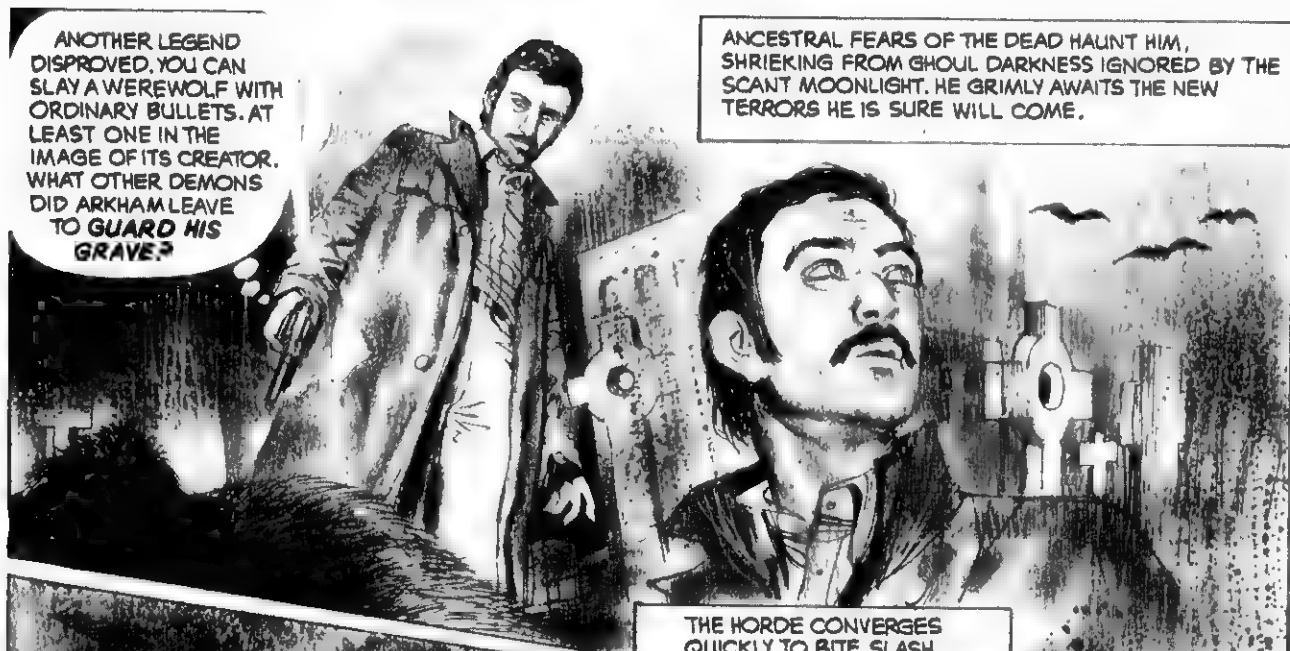
...BY THE ALMIGHTY...!

GRR-OWWWW!

POW! POW! POW!

ANOTHER LEGEND  
DISPROVED. YOU CAN  
SLAY A WEREWOLF WITH  
ORDINARY BULLETS. AT  
LEAST ONE IN THE  
IMAGE OF ITS CREATOR.  
WHAT OTHER DEMONS  
DID ARKHAM LEAVE  
TO GUARD HIS  
GRAVE?

ANCESTRAL FEARS OF THE DEAD HAUNT HIM,  
SHRIEKING FROM GHOUL DARKNESS IGNORED BY THE  
SCANT MOONLIGHT. HE GRIMLY AWAITS THE NEW  
TERRORS HE IS SURE WILL COME.

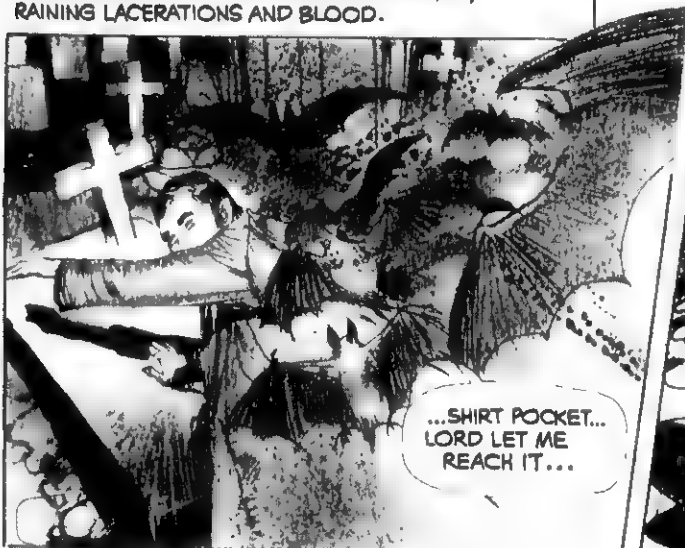


THE HORDE CONVERGES  
QUICKLY TO BITE, SLASH...  
ATTACK!



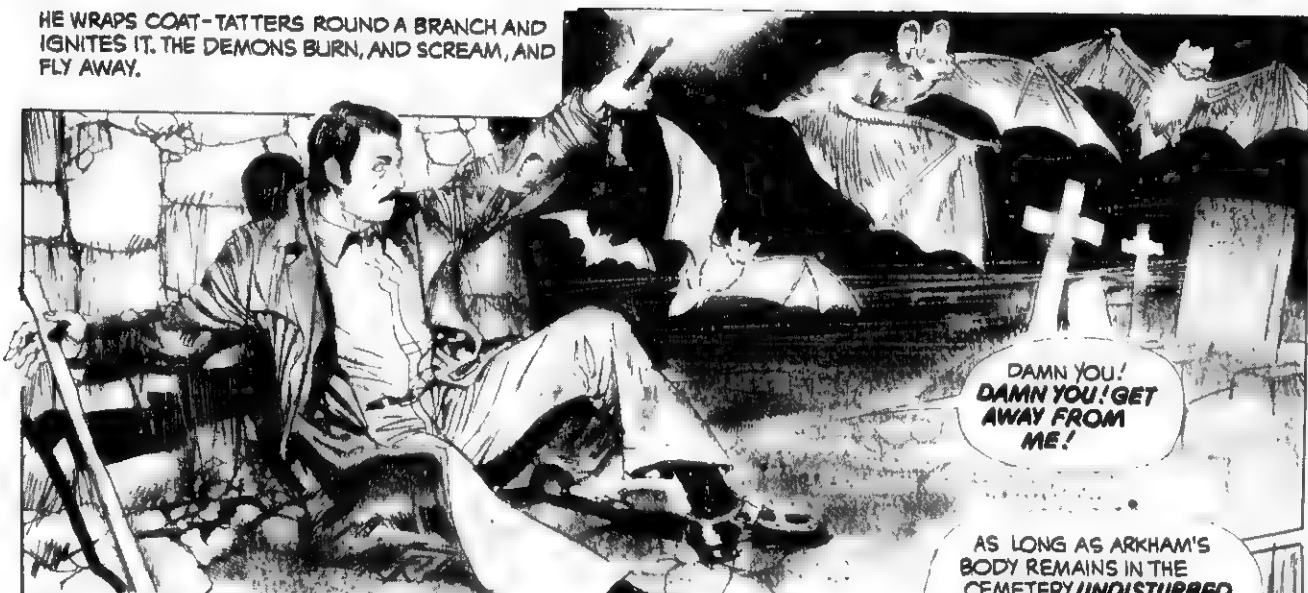
HE GOES DOWN, HUDDLES AGAINST A TOMBSTONE.  
FANGS VICIOUSLY BITE AND TEAR AT HIS COAT. CLAWS  
RAKE ACROSS HAIR AND UNPROTECTED SKIN,  
RAINING LACERATIONS AND BLOOD.

HE RIPS THE POCKET OPEN. THE LIGHTER FLARES  
INTO LIFE AND TRASK THRUSTS IT AT THE NEAREST  
VAMPIRE.





HE WRAPS COAT-TATTERS ROUND A BRANCH AND IGNITES IT. THE DEMONS BURN, AND SCREAM, AND FLY AWAY.



DAMN YOU!  
DAMN YOU! GET  
AWAY FROM  
ME!

THE GHASTLY SCENE BRINGS HIM NEAR MADNESS. TO COUNTER IT, HIS MIND DRIFTS BACK. A DAY AGO...

AS LONG AS ARKHAM'S  
BODY REMAINS IN THE  
CEMETERY **UNDISTURBED**,  
OUR BURIAL PLACE IS  
**ACCURSED**! NONE WHO LAY  
THERE SHALL KNOW REST.  
AND HIS POWER MAY WELL  
EXTEND BEYOND THE  
GRAVE!

... SACRILEGE! FOR  
THE BODY OF GREY ARKHAM...  
WARLOCK AND MURDERER...  
TO BE BURIED IN THE TOWN  
CEMETERY BY MISGUIDED  
FOLLOWERS.

FATHER,  
I'M JUST GLAD  
HE **IS** BURIED. THAT  
OLD MAN HELD AN  
EVIL SPELL OVER  
THIS TOWN.

WE ALL KNOW HE  
HELD BLOODY, UNHOLY  
RITUALS AT THAT OLD  
HOUSE. MANY  
PEOPLE "DISAPPEARED!"  
BUT DID THE SHERIFF DO  
ANYTHING? HAH! SCARED  
LIKE ALL THE REST.

YOU, A MAN OF  
THE CLOTH, MEAN  
SOMEONE SHOULD  
REMOVE OR DESTROY  
IT? WHY SHOULD  
ANYONE TRY TO TACKLE  
SUCH A JOB?

THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE  
WOMAN UNTIL SHE IS AMONG  
THEM, SPEAKING IN A VOICE  
HARSH AS THE BITING AUTUMN  
WIND.

YOU KNOW  
WHY, DON'T  
YOU, JOSEPH  
TRASK?

YOU KNOW  
WHY.



HE STUMBLES IN DEATH-DARKNESS, TRYING TO RECALL THE DIRECTION OF HIS GOAL. STOPPING TO WIPE BLOOD FROM HIS EYES, HE SPIES IT AT LAST.

I KNOW WHY...  
WHY. GOOD LORD...  
THERE IT...

...SORCERER...  
RITUALIST... SACRIFICIAL  
MURDERER... DYING  
FROM SOMETHING AS  
MORTAL AS A HEART  
ATTACK.

GOD GIVE  
ME THE STRENGTH  
TO DIG HIM UP.

FIERCELY, WITHOUT CEASING, HE **DIGS!**  
HOURS FLOOD BY, UNTIL HE STOPS  
TEN FEET DEEP!

WHY BURIED  
SO DEEP, ARKHAM?  
WANT TO BE CLOSER  
TO HELL? GOT TO  
OPEN THE COFFIN  
NOW...

NO. NOT  
WHEN I'M THIS  
CLOSE.

FLAMING RED EYES MEET TRASK'S AS HE  
GLANCES UP. THE RAT IS LARGE AND CAKED  
WITH FILTH.

ANOTHER JOINS THE FIRST. LOW THROATED  
SNARLING ACCOMPANIES THEIR LEAP.

NO! NOOOO!!

HE EMPTIES THE REVOLVER, USING THE SHOVEL AS A SHIELD FOR FACE AND THROAT, FOR WHICH THE PACK REPEATEDLY SPRINGS.

THE DIGGING INSTRUMENT BECOMES A SCYTHE, A PENDULUM OF HURLING BLOODY DEATH. SECTIONS OF GRAVE-WALL CRUMBLE UNDER THE FEROCIOUS ONSLAUGHT.



THE FOUL RODENTS ARE **EVERYWHERE**. TRASK PLUNGES THE TOOL DOWNWARDS... **SMASHES** THROUGH THE COFFIN LID OF BLACK LOCUST WOOD.

...AND THE RATS FLEE!



THE CORPSE LEERS UP AT HIM. ONLY A FEW DAYS BURIED, ITS OWN GODLESS EVIL HAS REDUCED IT TO A DECAYED, SICKENING HEAP, OOZING MAGGOTS AND WORMS AND STENCH.





HE IS REVULSED, CLOSE TO VOMITING, BLEEDING HEAVILY, STUNNED FROM SHOCK. YET HE STRUGGLES. PULLS THE VILE CADAVER FROM OUT THE GRAVE.

WON'T BE...  
BEATEN NOW...  
WON'T.

GAAA!

THE POWER OF THE BEYOND, THE DAMNED, IT WORKS AGAIN NOW, MALIGNANTLY, UNSEEN...

ARKHAM UPRIGHTS HIMSELF ON BONY PUTRESCENT LEGS... MOVES TOWARD HIS PAIN-AGONISED VICTIM. INSANE SKELETAL LAUGHTER RISES FROM NOWHERE.

AA-HAH! HAH!  
HAAH!

BLOOD FROM HIS CHEST SOAKS HIS SHIRT, RUNS DOWN HIS CLOTHES... HE IS HALF-DEAD. BUT HE RISES AND STRIKES! WEAKENED, ROTTEN BONE AND CARTILAGE PARTS UNDER HIS VIOLENT, DESPERATE BLOWS...

WON'T BE BEATEN...  
FIGHT YOU... TILL  
I DIE!

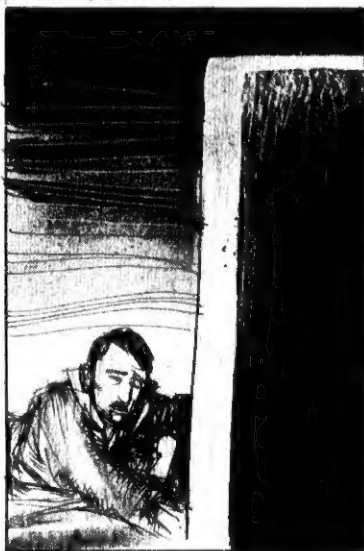
RREEEE!

...UNTIL THE CORE OF EVIL, ARKHAM'S UNDYING BRAIN, IS MASHED TO PULP!

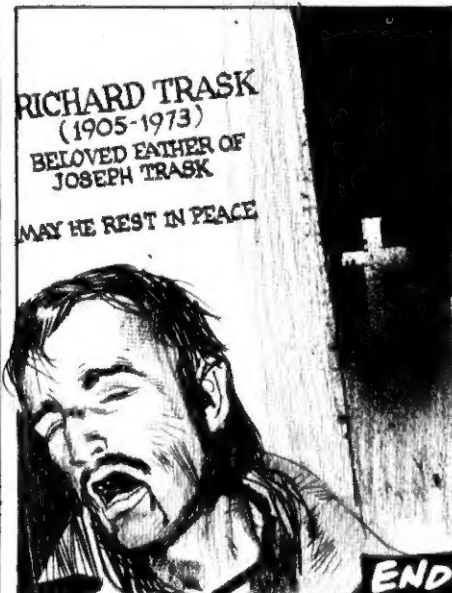


CORPSE IS... DESTROYED... CURSE ... LIFTED.' NOW... JUST ONE MORE GOAL ... TO... REACH.

MINUTES ONLY REMAIN TO HIM. DEATH TEARS AND PULLS WITH MERCILESS FINGERS AT HIS WEARY, MUTILATED BODY, BUT FIERCE DETERMINATION MAKES HIM CLAW THE GROUND AND CRAWL. CRAWL. UNTIL HIS GOAL IS ATTAINED.



YOU CAN... REST IN PEACE AGAIN. I DID IT FOR YOU. I DIDN'T FORGET... I DIDN'T...



...NOW YOU CAN REST... REST IN PEACE FOREVER ... DAD!

RICHARD TRASK  
(1905-1973)  
BELOVED FATHER OF  
JOSEPH TRASK  
MAY HE REST IN PEACE

END

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS:

[illegible][illegible]

**TOTAL  
ENCLOSED**

☐ GRAY  
☐ NAVY





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THE DARK BEAUTY LED THEM TO AN ANCIENT  
MONASTERY...AND A FABULOUS TREASURE.  
BUT WITHIN ITS WALLS LURKED...THE MONKS OF DEATH.

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ONLY ONE  
OF EIGHT  
EXCITING  
STORIES  
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